This Old House

WAKE UP YOUR WALLS!
Subway tile in 13 hues
p. 39

FRESH COLOR IDEAS

27 PERFECT PAINT COMBOS

21 GOOF-PROOF TIPS

16 AMAZING COTTAGE LOOKS

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pretty spray-paint makeovers

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fun faux finishes!

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SEPTEMBER 2014
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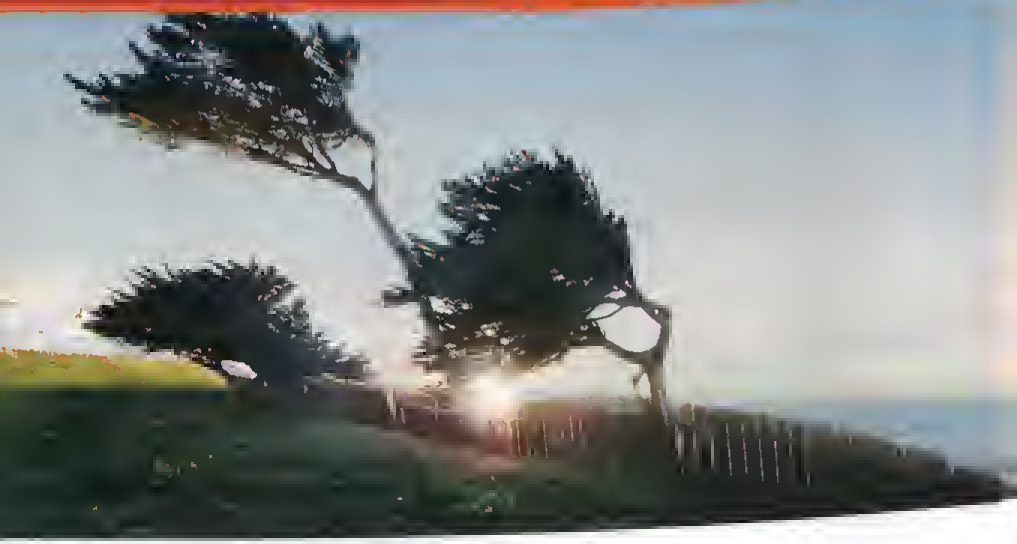
For people with a higher risk of stroke due to
Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) not caused by a heart valve problem



I focused on finding something better than warfarin.

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ELIQUIS® (apixaban) is a prescription medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation, a type of irregular heartbeat, not caused by a heart valve problem.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

- **Do not stop taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke.** ELIQUIS may need to be stopped, prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.
- **ELIQUIS can cause bleeding, which can be serious,** and rarely may lead to death.
- **You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and** take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, NSAIDs, warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, SSRIs or SNRIs, and other blood thinners. **Tell your doctor about all medicines, vitamins and supplements you take.** While taking ELIQUIS, you may bruise more easily and it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop.
- Get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding:
  - unexpected bleeding, or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as unusual bleeding from the gums, nosebleeds that happen often, or menstrual or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
  - bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
  - red, pink, or brown urine; red or black stools (looks like tar)
  - coughing up or vomiting blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
  - unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain, headaches, feeling dizzy or weak
- **ELIQUIS is not for patients with artificial heart valves.**
- **Spinal or epidural blood clots or bleeding (hematoma).** People who take ELIQUIS, and have medicine injected into their spinal and epidural area, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of forming a blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis).

This risk is higher if, an epidural catheter is placed in your back to give you certain medicine, you take NSAIDs or blood thinners, you have a history of difficult or repeated epidural or spinal punctures. Tell your doctor right away if you have tingling, numbness, or muscle weakness, especially in your legs and feet.

- **Before you take ELIQUIS,** tell your doctor if you have kidney or liver problems, any other medical condition, or ever had bleeding problems. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or plan to become pregnant or breastfeed.
- **Do not take ELIQUIS if you** currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding or have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. A reaction to ELIQUIS can cause hives, rash, itching, and possibly trouble breathing. Get medical help right away if you have sudden chest pain or chest tightness, have sudden swelling of your face or tongue, have trouble breathing, wheezing, or feeling dizzy or faint.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see additional Important Product Information on the adjacent page.

Individual results may vary.

Visit ELIQUIS.COM or call 1-855-ELIQUIS

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Eliquis®
(apixaban) tablet 2.5 mg 5 mg

IMPORTANT FACTS about ELIQUIS® (apixaban) tablets

℞ ONLY

The information below does not take the place of talking with your healthcare professional. Only your healthcare professional knows the specifics of your condition and how ELIQUIS may fit into your overall therapy. Talk to your healthcare professional if you have any questions about ELIQUIS (pronounced ELL eh kwiss)

What is the most important information I should know about ELIQUIS (apixaban)?

For people taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation: Do not stop taking ELIQUIS without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke. ELIQUIS may need to be stopped, prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.

ELIQUIS can cause bleeding which can be serious and rarely may lead to death. This is because ELIQUIS is a blood thinner medicine that reduces blood clotting.

You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding such as aspirin, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (called NSAIDs), warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), and other medicines to help prevent or treat blood clots.

Tell your doctor if you take any of these medicines. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one listed above.

While taking ELIQUIS:

- you may bruise more easily
- it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop

Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding when taking ELIQUIS:

- unexpected bleeding, or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as:
  - unusual bleeding from the gums
  - nosebleeds that happen often
  - menstrual bleeding or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
- bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
- red, pink or brown urine
- red or black stools (looks like tar)
- cough up blood or blood clots
- vomit blood or your vomit looks like coffee grounds
- unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain
- headaches, feeling dizzy or weak

ELIQUIS (apixaban) is not for patients with artificial heart valves.

Spinal or epidural blood clots or bleeding (hematoma)

People who take a blood thinner medicine (anticoagulant) like ELIQUIS, and have medicine injected into their spinal and epidural area or have a spinal puncture have a risk of forming a blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis). Your risk of developing a spinal or epidural blood clot is higher if:

- a thin tube called an epidural catheter is placed in your back to give you certain medicine
- you take NSAIDs or a medicine to prevent blood from clotting
- you have a history of difficult or repeated epidural or spinal punctures
- you have a history of problems with your spine or have had surgery on your spine

If you take ELIQUIS and receive spinal anesthesia or have a spinal puncture, your doctor should watch you closely for symptoms of spinal or epidural blood clots or bleeding. Tell your doctor right away if you have tingling, numbness, or muscle weakness, especially in your legs and feet.

What is ELIQUIS?

ELIQUIS is a prescription medicine used to:

- reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation
- reduce the risk of forming a blood clot in the legs and lungs of people who have just had hip or knee replacement surgery

It is not known if ELIQUIS is safe and effective in children.

Who should not take ELIQUIS (apixaban)?

Do not take ELIQUIS if you:

- currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding
- have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. Ask your doctor if you are not sure.

What should I tell my doctor before taking ELIQUIS?

Before you take ELIQUIS, tell your doctor if you:

- have kidney or liver problems
- have any other medical condition
- have ever had bleeding problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if ELIQUIS will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if ELIQUIS passes into your breast milk. You and your doctor should decide if you will take ELIQUIS or breastfeed. You should not do both.

Tell all of your doctors and dentists that you are taking ELIQUIS. They should talk to the doctor who prescribed ELIQUIS for you, before you have **any** surgery, medical or dental procedure.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over the counter medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements. Some of your other medicines may affect the way ELIQUIS works. Certain medicines may increase your risk of bleeding or stroke when taken with ELIQUIS.

How should I take ELIQUIS?

Take ELIQUIS exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Take ELIQUIS twice every day with or without food, and do not change your dose or stop taking it unless your doctor tells you to. If you miss a dose of ELIQUIS, take it as soon as you remember and do not take more than one dose at the same time. **Do not run out of ELIQUIS (apixaban). Refill your prescription before you run out.** When leaving the hospital following hip or knee replacement, be sure that you will have ELIQUIS available to avoid missing any doses. **If you are taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation, stopping ELIQUIS may increase your risk of having a stroke.**

What are the possible side effects of ELIQUIS?

- See **"What is the most important information I should know about ELIQUIS?"**
- ELIQUIS can cause a skin rash or severe allergic reaction. Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following symptoms:
  - chest pain or tightness
  - swelling of your face or tongue
  - trouble breathing or wheezing
  - feeling dizzy or faint

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all of the possible side effects of ELIQUIS. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

This is a brief summary of the most important information about ELIQUIS. For more information, talk with your doctor or pharmacist, call 1-855 ELIQUIS (1-855-354-7847) or go to www.ELIQUIS.com.

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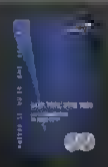

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THIS OLD HOUSE ®2014
THIS OLD HOUSE VENTURES, INC
SEPTEMBER 2014

Contents

Fresh color ideas

idea file

29 **before + after: kitchen** Lessons learned on the job inform a TOH TV producer's cook-space reno

35 **before + after: bath** Reclaimed fixtures and bold paint create a stylish, storage-filled kids' bath

49 **Photoshop redo** Earthy paint palettes let a Folk Victorian stand out in style

60 **read this before you strip paint from wood** Use our guide to give wood surfaces a fresh start

72 **well balanced** A four-square's period-style makeover reflects its architect owner's sense of harmony

80 **painted patina** Perk up your furniture's personality with five distressing techniques

86 **rustic revival** A DIYer's vivid sense of color energizes a cozy cabin's rejuvenation

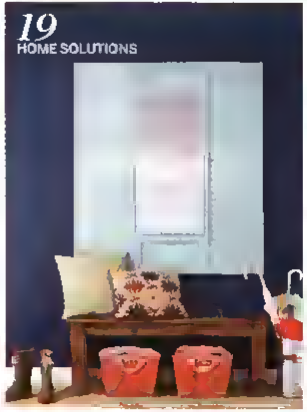
94 **11 of your most crazy-making paint-color questions answered!** Pros weigh in with sane advice

pp. 29, 35, 49, 57, 72, 86, 94

pp. 20, 60, 80

PHOTOS, (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP): TRIA GIOVAN; MARK LUND; ANDREW MCKAI

72 WELL BALANCED



19 HOME SOLUTIONS

35 BEFORE + AFTER BATH

Cover Photograph by TRIA GIOVAN
Styling by JORGE ARANGO

Contents

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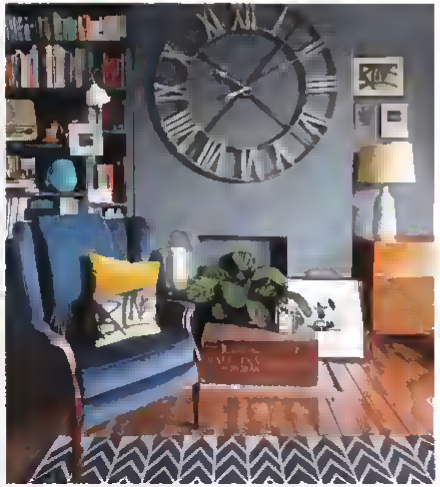

57 PAINT IDEAS

80 PAINTED PATINA

29 BEFORE + AFTER: KITCHEN

39 SHOPPING

home solutions

19 Turn a pair of shutters into a multitasking mirror; colorful spray paint ideas, tips for tackling indoor allergens; seven ways to prevent paint spills; avoid paint-color spats; clobber clothing moths; and more

upgrades

39 **shopping**
Colorful subway tile

44 **get this look for less**
Leaf green living room

how-to projects

53 **landscaping**
Tips for a more bountiful spring-bulb garden

57 **paint ideas**
Five no-fail colors for living spaces

65 **weekend remodel**
Learn how to lay down a floating linoleum tile floor

ask this old house

101 **Q+A** Where to recycle leftover paint; vertical balusters make decks safer for kids; revive a winter-walloped Japanese maple; and more

105 **Norm's tricks of the trade**
Install a closet shelf

IN EVERY ISSUE

11 *letter from* This Old House
12 *reader mail*
16 *digital highlights*
107 *directory*
114 *save this old house*

PHOTOS: (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) BRUCE GILBERT/©TAP PHOTOGRAPHY; ERIC ROTH; TED MORRISON; JIM R. HENNESSY

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"I thought torture by color ended when we finished inside the house," I said to my wife.

"Mm-hmm," she replied, leaving me unclear whether she meant, *Yes, it had, and sorry 'bout the backside*, or *Don't be stupid*.

We were on the deck, staring at seven color swatches I'd painted on the masonry alongside the back door, all nearly the identical shade of soft green. We had just simultaneously said, "I like that one," and each pointed at a different hue. And so I knew I'd be going back to the hardware store for what turned out to be another four pint-size samples. We had to make a decision fast, and, well, we're just not great at that.

You see, we finally had the good fortune of meeting a decent local contractor, Walter. Unfortunately, he wasn't working for us. He was on the remodel next door, which in a rowhouse is more like next wall, since all the houses are attached. When you do an addition in our neighborhood, it's an extension, and it goes right on the property line, which is why he asked us if he could put a piece of scaffolding in our backyard for a week. In exchange for the inconvenience, Walter offered to power-wash and paint the old and, over the decades, badly repaired brick that covered the back of our house. We jumped at the chance and right into our typical bucket of pigment paralysis. Made me wish I were color-blind.

Samples eight through 11, the last I got, didn't really settle matters, until we noticed two of them paired together on one of those cards that paint stores display, showing rooms or facades done up in preselected palettes. My wife got a look like I imagine (and which she denies) she got upon first meeting me. "Perfect," she said, with a eureka smile, and it was true. The combination—the darker green on the bricks and the pale, pale, pale green on windowsills and lintels—looked terrific.

I don't know why we hadn't checked out those helpful paint-palette cards before. I mean, we do our own version of that kind of advice in *TOH* all the time but more so in this issue, our special Color Issue. You'll find such pairings in "Well Balanced" (page 72) and in "11 of Your Most Crazy-Making Paint-Color Questions Answered!" (page 94) and especially in "No-Fail Shades for Living Spaces" (page 57). I could have used that, seven and six and five and three years ago. Also last year. Would have saved me, well, seven years.

The editor caught once again in color confusion.

PHOTOS: (CENTER) MICHAEL LEWIS

Scott Omelianuk

SCOTT OMELIANUK, EDITOR
scott@thisoldhouse.com

Freebies!

Walter the contractor isn't the only one feeling generous. First, a reminder that you can still enter **The Great TOH Giveaway** for more than $728,000 in prizes, from Lumber Liquidators flooring underfoot to very smart-looking synthetic cedar shakes from DaVinci Roofscapes overhead. Second, there's Zillow, which I'm pleased to say has become a TOH Proud Preservation Partner, offering $2,000 to anyone who buys the place featured in this issue's Save This Old House. See pages 3 and 114 for respective details. And good luck!

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Reader mail

OUR FIRST-EVER *All-American Issue* *brought such positive responses that we are still blushing. Additionally, readers shared laughs, a safety reminder you need before taking a shovel to your yard, and a curb-appeal-boosting TOH-inspired paint scheme.*

All-American Issue

Thanks for another excellent issue of *This Old House* magazine. The July 2014 All-American Issue was well themed, informative, and a pleasure to read. I found "All About Built-in Barbecue Pits" [page 82], on BBQ and grilling, especially inspiring; the tips on building, fueling, and using home barbecue pits brought together information that seems to have been lost over the past few decades. And linking the section to an iconic 1950s TV show (the photo from *I Love Lucy*) was a brilliant reminder of another time, when DIY permeated American culture.

—GARY FISHER, PEARLINE, MICH.

The July 2014 issue of *This Old House* is your best ever. The photo-article on the American pottery pitchers [Shopping, page 31], the featured cottage remodel ["Comeback Story," page 56], the beautifully sourced and photographed all-American products roundup ["American Classics," page 64]...all superb. Thanks!

—SHARON AND JIM KAVANAGH, MONROE, OREG.

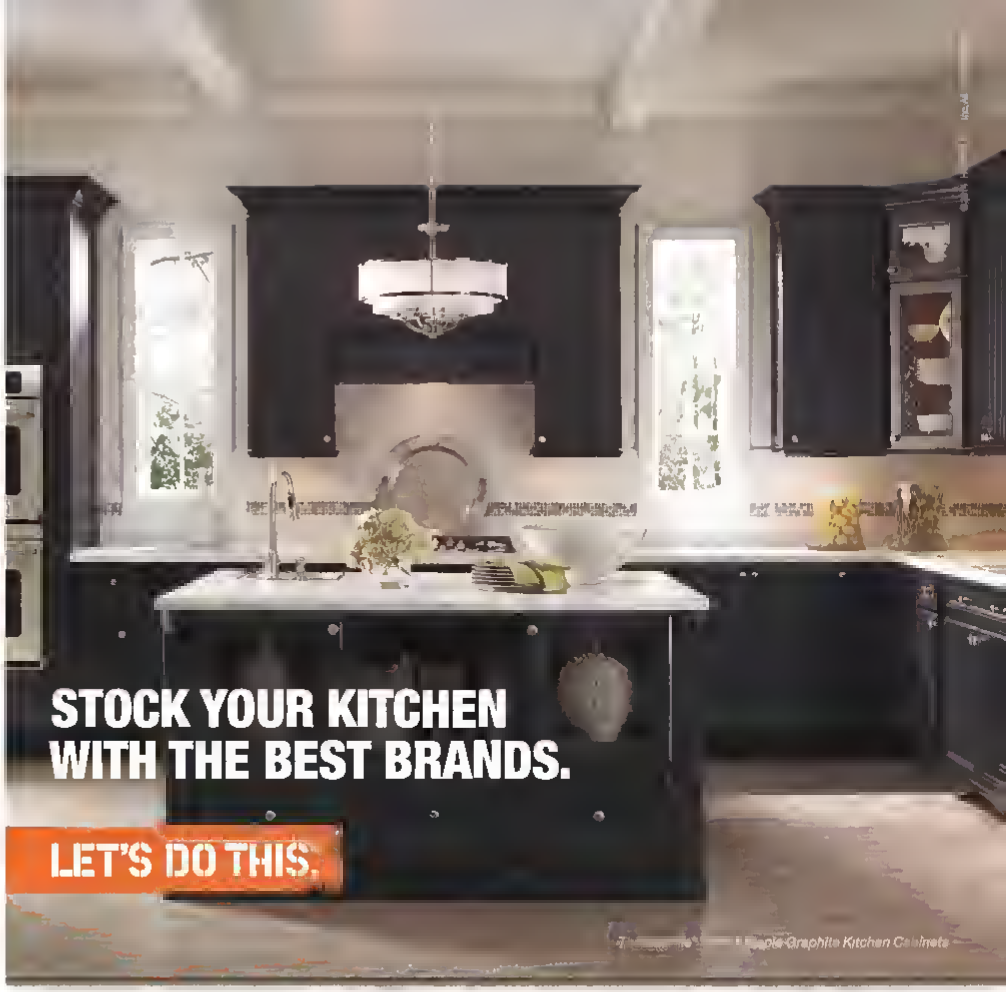
I just wanted to say the July 2014 issue is your best to date. There was clear and concise information on real problems regarding design, products, and hazards.

READER OF THE MONTH

Dress blues

MEGAN MARCELLO NOLI, TUCSON, ARIZ.

We'd been toying around with repainting our house for a few years. I had torn out and saved your May 2012 Photoshop Redo—I fell in love with the blue palette (top). Well, we finally got around to the job, and I did indeed choose colors very close to those. They worked brilliantly together! The reception from our neighbors has been overwhelming. Thank you for the inspiration!



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Reader mail

I will keep it very handy Thanks, and keep up the good work.

—JOE BYE MAIL

EDITORS NOTE *Thanks to all who took the time to write in and share your thoughts In case you missed the July 2014 issue, you can still get the tablet edition (free to subscribers) by going to thisoldhouse com/tablet*

Important reminder

In the step-by-step on planting a tree in Ask This Old House, June 2014, you missed an opportunity to remind readers to call 811 to obtain underground utility locations before digging It's fast, it's free, and it's available in all 50 states

—TERRY BYE MAIL

THE EDITORS REPLY *Great point Though Roger Cook mentions it in the related* Ask This Old House *episode (find it at thisoldhouse com/sep2014), it wasn't included in the instructions Go to call811 com to learn more.*

Past imperfect

I subscribe to *This Old House* just to read editor Scott Omelianuk's monthly column Hilarious I guess I laugh because I want to cry, remembering all of our "oops" moments! My husband and I remodeled houses for years Your magazine's great info came decades too late for us—but we read just to see how stupid we were We live now in a house my grandpa built, and it is truly grand In dire need of a kitchen remodel, but I think I'll leave that job to my kids

—MAUREEN CAMERON GOLDFIELD IOWA

CORRECTION In "All About Built-in Barbecue Pits," July 2014, the chimney-style charcoal starter on page 86 was photographed incorrectly; the vertical vents should go to the bottom Our apologies for the error

HOW TO REACH THE EDITORS
E-mail TOH letters@thisoldhouse com Please include your full name address and phone number Published letters are edited for clarity and length

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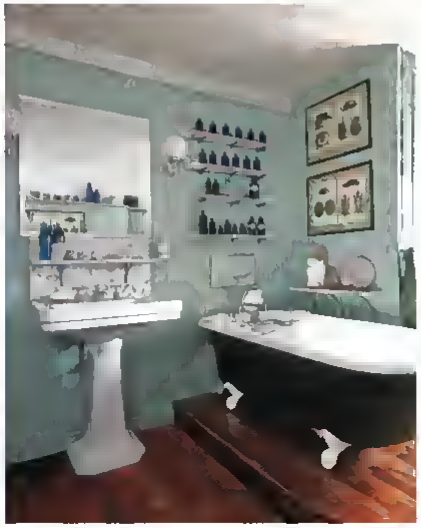

Find your color inspiration!

- Editors' favorite colorful kitchens
- 17 calming blue bathrooms
- Exterior paint schemes for your house's style

Go to **thisoldhouse.com/sep2014**

TABLET

Bonus features

Discover extra content in our digital edition, including more photos from an *Ask TOH* TV producer's kitchen renovation, extra images from Save This Old House, and additional products for creating a leaf-green living room. Plus: The most horrifying home-inspector discoveries we've ever seen. Go to **thisoldhouse.com/tablet** to download your copy.

HOW TO VIDEO

How to cut in paint edges with a brush

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home solutions

Edited by Mitchelle Brunner

INSIDE EASY UPGRADES | HEALTHY HOME | PAINT TIPS | RENO ADVICE | MORE

COLOR IDEA

Show-off shutters

Whether you need to steal a glance as you dash out the door or want a place to stash a reminder note, this shutter mirror could be just the ticket. We repurposed an old pair (these were $1 each at a yard sale) and mounted them on ½-inch plywood with an inexpensive mirror ($30 at IKEA) centered in between. Orienting the louvers upward provides slots for slipping in notes or cards, or even hooking on small baskets. Adding panel details lends architectural character, and a coat of paint unifies the parts, making this one looking glass that's a real looker.

SEE IT DONE!
To watch a video showing how this shutter mirror was made, go to thisoldhouse.com/sep2014

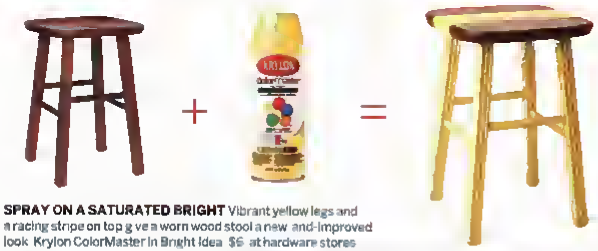
PHOTO: A. GRIEWE; STYLING: MORGAN LEVINE FOR PATTERSON AND ASSOCIATES

COLOR IDEAS

Spray-paint makeovers

An aerosol can of color costs less than $10 but has the power to punch up even the most mundane household objects. Here, we put to work three of the latest formulations

ADD QUICK-CHANGE MATTE COLOR A clear glass container gets an instant update with bold red accents In a rubberized matte coating Best of all When you get tired of the tint you can peel it right off Rust Oleum FlexiDip in Red $6 at home centers



SPRAY ON A SATURATED BRIGHT Vibrant yellow legs and a racing stripe on top give a worn wood stool a new and improved look Krylon ColorMaster in Bright Idea $6 at hardware stores

GO FOR A HAMMERED-METAL LOOK A textured ceramic lamp base is a good candidate for a shiny metallic finish especially one that imparts gradations of color Rust Oleum in Hammered Bronze $6 at home centers

Tackle allergy hot spots

Cooler weather means latched windows and closed storm doors are soon to follow—potentially trapping seasonal and year-round allergens indoors Here's how to reduce irritants in three key areas

—KATELIN HILL

AT THE FRONT DOOR Ragweed hits its peak in late summer with each plant releasing up to a billion grains of pollen It makes its way indoors on clothing shoes and even hair
The fix: Wet-mop hard floors to keep from kicking particles back up into the air Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter weekly on soft surfaces Lay down doormats inside and out.

IN THE BEDROOM Dust mites thrive in beds where they live off dead skin cells and moisture
The fix: Washing linens on COLD or WARM will get rid of most of the mites but only hot water will kill the eggs Use a mite proof cover to keep them from burrowing into the mattress In the mornings leave bedcovers turned down to allow moisture to evaporate more quickly

IN THE BATHROOM Mold and mildew thrive in damp areas such as tubs showers and under the sink—and summer's humidity makes the situation worse.
The fix: Scrub hard surfaces using a bleach-based cleanser with windows open Run the bath's vent fan for at least 20 minutes after bathing

PHOTOS, (FROM ROW, FROM LEFT) M. CAMES CHINN/FAME; NO. DHOTA; ST. O. D. ANDREW M. CAULD; (MIDDLE ROW, FROM LEFT) MICHAEL O. E. MILLING; DIGITAL STUDIO; ANDREW MCCAUL; (2); (BOTTOM ROW, FROM LEFT) MICHAEL O. N. TIME INC. BOOK STUDIO; ANDREW MCCAUL; (PLANTS) E. ENKEL; SCEEVA/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; MORGAN LEVY/GETTY IMAGES; (ILLUSTRATION) BERGE MOGHADAM

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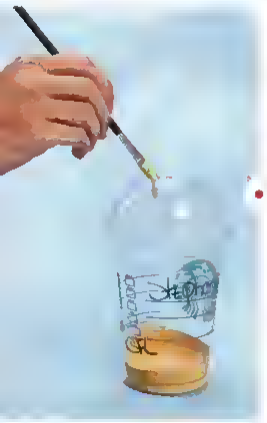
Sidestep spills

Sometimes all the prep work in the world can't prevent a paint accident. Whether you're heading off a rogue drop or a tsunami-level spill, follow these pro tips to prevent messes big and small. —RUSSELL WILLOUGHBY

1 Pick up an inexpensive snap-on lid with a spout for drip-free pouring (Shur-Line lid, $3; homedepot.com) This one keeps the rim of your can clean and closes to keep paint from drying out while you're working



2 Just touching up? Use a turkey baster to transfer a small amount to a disposable cup

3 Hold on to your blended-coffee drink cups. They are ideal for touch-ups, and the round opening in the plastic dome is perfect for scraping excess paint off an artist's brush

4 Stick with a drop cloth made from a nonslip material, like canvas. Paint can pool on plastic, and you might step in it and drag it around the house—or worse, slip and fall. But it's a good idea to lay plastic directly underneath your paint tray for extra protection

5 Line your work area with scraps of carpet or old coir mats so that you can wipe any paint remnants off your shoes

6 Punch holes with a nail or a 5-in-1 tool in the channel of the rim of your can to prevent pooled paint from dripping over the edge

7 When tackling a large surface, pour a gallon of paint into a 5-gallon bucket and add a roller screen for easier loading and increased mobility. Plus, you're less likely to have a messy misstep than with a conventional tray. (Linzer 5-gallon bucket screen, $4, homedepot.com)

PHOTOS: TED MORRISON

Let's make today fun.

Toyota RAV4
toyota.com/rav4

Let's Go Places

Options vehicle. See

Avoid a color clash

You love bold, saturated hues, your spouse favors pastels. If you and your partner butt heads over paint colors you're not alone. According to a recent online survey, 12 percent of couples considered separation or divorce during a remodel, and arguing over paint chips doesn't help. Try these tips to make decisions that work for both of you. —KATHRYN O'SHEA EVANS

SHARE YOUR VISION Make a Pinterest "lookbook" of images so that you have examples to show your better half. Some people have a harder time visualizing things than others, so maybe your partner just needs to see what you're talking about to be convinced.

REVEAL YOUR REASONING Is there a deeper meaning behind a color choice? Sometimes the answer is yes. "For example, I grew up in inner city apartments, where all the walls were off-white. I don't want my grown-up home to resemble that," says Don Cole, a couples therapist in Houston. Your spouse is more likely to understand your aversions if he or she knows where you're coming from.

HAVE A RETURN POLICY If your spouse really hates a hue, offer to return the wall to its original color by the end of the week—and be willing to follow through on that promise. Remember, it's just paint. You can always start over with a fresh coat.

COLOR IDEAS

Bright ideas

Colorful seating is an instant cheer-up for a kitchen or a dining area when a full-scale redo isn't on the agenda—and there's a style in virtually every color of the rainbow. Check out three of our favorites, below. —MEGAN BAKER

CAFÉ STYLE The original Tolix chair was designed in 1934 and soon became popular in bars and restaurants, thanks to its sturdy steel construction. This version's kelly green paint pretties up the industrial look. $199 for two; wayfair.com

WINDSOR INSPIRED The iconic chair, popular in colonial America, is prized for its lightweight construction and streamlined look. This spindled style gets a jolt from kicky red. $149; crateandbarrel.com

CLASSIC BISTRO Woven seats and bentwood frames are the hallmarks of these seats, which got their start in Parisian sidewalk cafés in the 1930s. This model's navy and white pattern adds a crisp contrast to the natural rattan frame. $245; serenaandlily.com

PHOTO: ANDREW MCKAY. STYLING: MEGAN LEVINE; PAT BATEMAN ASSOCIATES. ILLUSTRATION: SERGE BLOCH

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They HOOOOOOWOWOOOOOOLLLLLL!
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Mother may not approve. But you are Black Satin; she is Snow Whi
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Moths that munch

Talk about a fashion victim. You reach for your favorite cashmere, and darned if it isn't full of holes. You've suffered an attack of the clothing moth, which has plagued humans for millennia, evolving to thrive in the dark recesses of a loaded closet, where hungry larvae seem to make a beeline for the good stuff. "The fondness they exhibit nowadays for tailor-made suits and other expensive products of the loom is simply an illustration of their ability to keep pace with man," *The New York Times* moaned—in 1898. Anti-moth measures haven't changed much since then either. Here's why. —DEBORAH BALDWIN

HOW THEY BLEND IN
Just ¼ inch long and tinted golden brown, webbing moths and their casemaking cousins flutter under human radar. They home in on sweat, urine- and food-stained fibers—and each other. Females lay up to 300 eggs, which hatch in heated rooms in about two weeks, becoming larvae that mature in 35 to 90 days. Adults emerge one to four weeks later, hungry for love in a dark, fiber-filled place. Moth traps baited with pheromones can catch male webbing moths, but they won't end an infestation.

WHAT THEY LIKE
Fur, wool, mohair, and hair are beloved by the moths' spawn (those tiny, starving larvae). (When they aren't procreating, the adults aren't the problem.) Moths thrive in dark, still chambers, aided by dust bunnies and hiding places like cracks along baseboards. Vacuuming and sunlight help protect wool carpets, but not if you roll them up and put them in moth heaven, the attic.

WHAT WON'T DO THE JOB
Cedar, lavender, cloves: none are strong enough to repel the little devils. Mothballs work if used as directed but expose you to toxic naphthalene or paradichlorobenzene fumes.

THINK FIRE AND ICE
Centuries after the first clotheshorse put pinholes and pests together, textile scientists are still wrestling with the challenge of getting moths to move along. Some swear by heat ("baking" clothes in a warm oven for at least 30 minutes), others by a deep chill (bagging and freezing them for a week)—or both. (See "Bug off!" at right.) And have you heard the one about placing clothes inside a sack along with a chunk of dry ice?

Bug off!

Here's how to treat—and prevent—infestations.

1 Empty the closet.

2 Vacuum or sweep the floor, walls, shelves, even the ceiling.

3 Nothing should be allowed back in until it's been subjected to one of these larvae-eradicating measures. Chemical dry cleaning—your best shot and the easiest, least painful solution. Laundering in hot (120°F) water (sorry, lukewarm handwashing won't do); heavy steam-ironing, especially along seams, under the collar, and inside the pockets and cuffs; time out in alternating warm (120°F) and cold (below 18°F) temperatures, ending with several days in the freezer. Keep in mind that killing the larvae doesn't protect against re-infestation.

4 The risk of finding moth holes declines every time you shake out an item, hang it in a sunny spot, and brush it thoroughly with a stiff clothes brush, just like Jeeves. Give hanging items breathing room, keep dusting and vacuuming.

5 Store clean items seasonally in zippered storage bags, space bags, or bins with tight lids (tape shut if necessary).

6 If all else fails, call in pros. They'll devise a systematic way to wipe out the larvae and discourage the pests from flitting back in and doing more damage.

ILLUSTRATIONS: BERGE BLOCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 107

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see what Delta can do

COLOR IDEA

Bringing it home

Ask This Old House TV's executive producer hammers out some answers for his own place

BY DEBORAH BALDWIN + PHOTOGRAPHS BY ERIC ROTH

BEFORE

BEFORE The homeowners tested a dozen paint colors on the old white-and-caramel cabinets. **AFTER** Chris and Kate gather with their daughters in the new kitchen, with cabinets in just the right green.

WHEN CHRIS WOLFE, executive producer at *Ask This Old House* TV, and his wife, Kate, moved into their 1937 Colonial Revival, in Arlington, Massachusetts, they had a mental image of their ideal kitchen. "One of Chris's first projects for *TOH* TV had Shaker cabinets, painted a soft green," Kate recalls. "We both said, 'Wow, we love this kitchen!' " The one they inherited, in contrast, had 1970s brick-veneer walls and beige vinyl flooring, and doors and windows in all the wrong places. After putting any thoughts of a redo on hold long enough to get to know the house, the couple brought in designer Ingrid Nuñez. In his role as producer, Chris had helped plenty of homeowners wrestle with pipes, beams, and subflooring, so he made the infrastructure his top priority, choosing a top-notch contractor, Skip Miller, to troubleshoot the process. Guided by a desire to "respect the feeling of the house," as Chris puts it, the couple chose flat-panel cabinets, honed black granite countertops with the look of soapstone, and a classic white subway-tile backsplash. The result—one part period style, three parts contemporary function—involved months of tricky engineering, with slight tweaks to the footprint, to make everything fit. But it paid off, says Chris: "We're really happy with the way it all worked out."

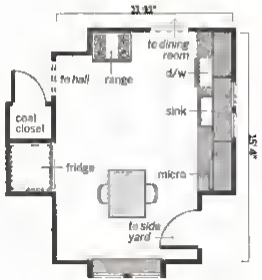
BENJAMIN MOORE
High Park

BENJAMIN MOORE
Moonshine

One large awning window illuminates a U-shaped work zone lined with subway tile. *Honed granite counters Stone Décor Galleria*

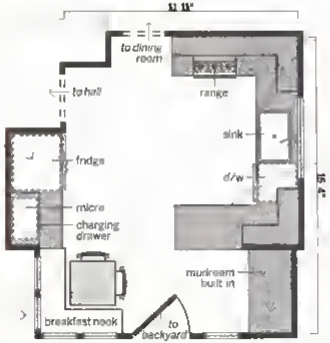
before

The range and fridge were marooned in a 183-square-foot box.



after

Annexing a closet and squaring off the back walls added 13 square feet, allowing a new layout, a breakfast nook, even a mudroom.



1] Shifted and narrowed the dining room entry to improve the layout.

2] Took over a coat closet for the fridge, adding more cabinets.

3] Pushed out a back corner over the basement bulkhead entrance for a window-lined eating nook.

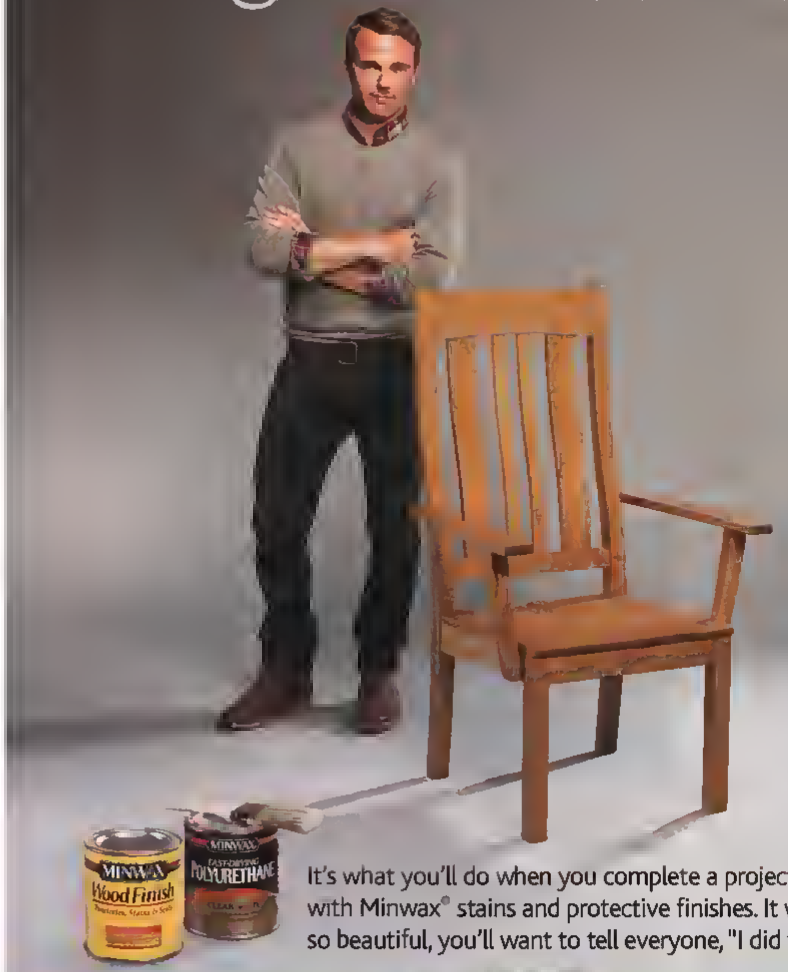
4] Arranged the new range, dishwasher, and sink in longer runs of upper and lower cabinetry.

5] Added a peninsula for an efficient U-shaped cooking zone.

6] Moved the side door to the back and bumped out the corner where it had been for mudroom storage.

PHOTOS (PAINT): JAMES BRAM; HENRY/TIME INC. © BIG TALL GUY PRODUCTIONS, LLC

SHOW & TELL



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The window-lined breakfast nook, with a space-saving built-in banquette, doubles as a homework station. *Windows and door: Marvin. Porcelain floor tile: Emil America. Radiant floor heating: Uponor.*

Situated near the back door and away from the cooking zone, the mudroom built-in holds cubbies and a boot bench for Jane, 3, and Claudia, 8. *Coat hooks: Amarock.*

The refrigerator fits neatly in a niche that once held the hall coat closet, allowing more cabinet storage. *Cabinets: Plain & Fancy. Knobs and bin pulls: Cosmas. Refrigerator: KitchenAid.*

A charging station is in a drawer under the microwave, just steps from the breakfast nook. *Outlet with USB port: Pass & Seymour.*

What I've learned

Ask TOH producer Chris Wolfe shares some of his hard-acquired wisdom.

TAKE YOUR TIME. "We clipped magazine articles and kept notes for four years while living with the old kitchen. It gave us a chance to figure out what we really wanted."

INVEST IN PEOPLE. "We went with a contractor whose bid was a little higher than some of the others but who knew how to listen and how to solve problems. It made the work go smoothly."

SPEND ON WHAT YOU DON'T SEE. Some of the most important decisions we made are hidden. We added a steel beam to span the opening above the breakfast nook. And we added spray foam insulation and radiant floor heating to make our new kitchen much more comfortable."

MAKE EVERY INCH COUNT. "Don't assume you need to add a lot of space—try reconfiguring what you have. Just 13 extra square feet allowed us to have a breakfast nook and a mudroom."

DO A TEST RUN. "We used life-size cardboard templates to make sure we could fit in a table and banquette with enough legroom. We could—just barely!"

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 107

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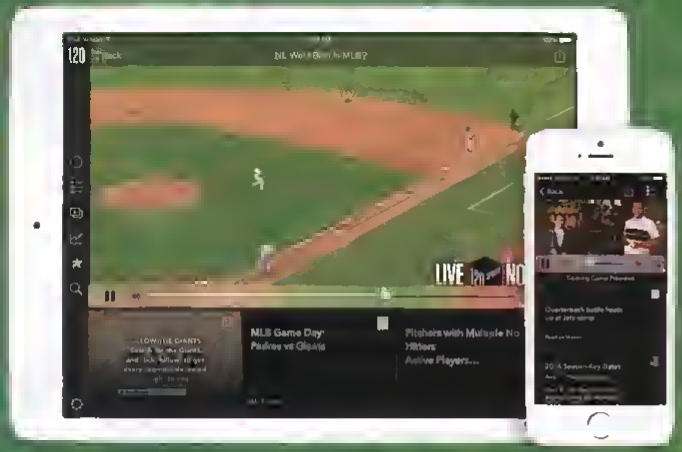

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COLOR IDEA

Classic yet kid-friendly

Timeless finishes plus a punchy paint color give a children's bath room to grow

BY MEGAN BAKER • PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK LUND

SOMETIMES THE SIZE of a room isn't the issue, it's how it's arranged. At Jess and Fran Ryan's early-1900s house, in Summit, New Jersey, the bath shared by their two young children was big enough. But with a single pedestal sink, a toilet wedged between a wall and the tub, and no storage space, the room wasn't working to its full potential. So the couple enlisted designer Tracey Stephens to rethink the space.

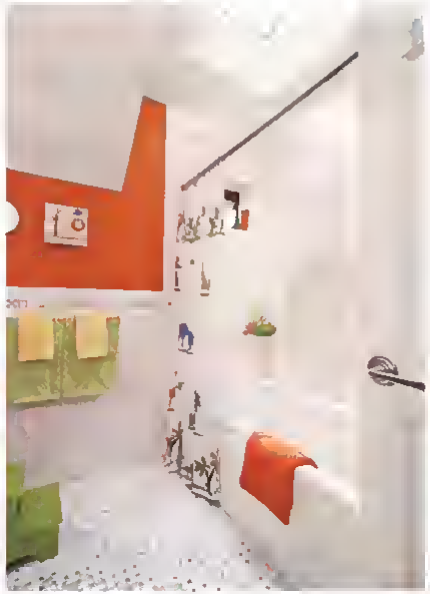
Taking advantage of the existing nearly square footprint, Stephens swapped the tub and sink locations, freeing up room for a double vanity and for added clearance around the toilet. Shifting the doorway 22 inches created space for floor-to-ceiling open shelves and put the tub in its own alcove. Starting from scratch gave Stephens the freedom to concoct a look that's both classic and contemporary. As she puts it, "The Carrara marble, polished chrome, and subway tile make it traditional, while the mosaic-tile border, frameless medicine cabinets, and bold orange paint make it modern." We call it a forward-looking environment for young ones in an older home.

BEFORE

BEFORE Blue tile and fixtures dated the storage-starved shared bath. **AFTER** Moving fixtures allowed for a double vanity. Sophisticated finishes—dark wood cabinetry, a marble floor, white subway tiles, and a strip of glass accented mosaic tile—get a youthful kick from orange walls. *Paint (walls): Benjamin Moore's Pumpkin Cream. Vanity: Woodpro. Sconces: Hudson Valley Lighting.*

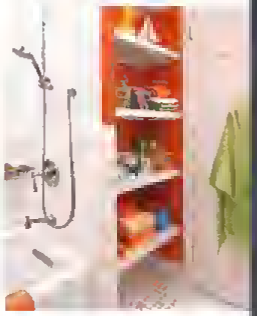
PRODUCED BY COLETTE SHANLIN; STYLIST: PATRICIA BAVISER

An inset of mosaic tile—a mix of glass and marble—over the tub matches the border that rings the room. Its tones of gray and white complement the marble basketweave floor. *Tile, Wayne Tile. Tub, Kohler.*

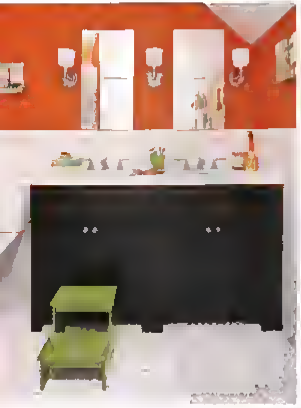


BENJAMIN MOORE
Pumpkin Cream

Open shelves neatly stow towels and toiletries within easy reach without adding another door swing to the room. An adjustable showerhead helps kids take bathtime into their own hands. *Showerhead, Grohe.*

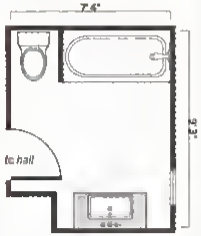


Narrow frameless mirror medicine cabinets and a trio of sconces keep the room feeling light and bright.



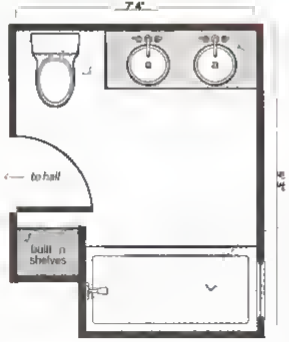
before

The bath gave too much space to the sink and not enough to the toilet—plus, it lacked storage.



after

Swapping the sink and tub made room for a double vanity. Moving the doorway opened up space for floor-to-ceiling storage shelves.



1] Kept the toilet where it was, but gave it an extra 5 inches of clearance on the vanity side to meet code.

2] Shifted the door 22 inches to free up space for built-in shelves. Forgoing a closet door helped preserve an airy, open feel.

3] Put a storage-rich double vanity—made by joining two single ones and adding a custom top—into the old tub's spot.

4] Installed a 5-foot tub in the former sink alcove, below an existing skylight and centered the small window over the end of the tub.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 107

THEIR TRIUMPHS MADE HISTORY.
THEIR TRAGEDIES MADE THEM HUMAN.

A FILM BY KEN BURNS
THE ROOSEVELTS
AN INTIMATE HISTORY

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COLOR IDEA

Colorful subway tile

Vibrant glazes offer a fun twist on the standard white ceramic rectangle

BY MEGAN BAKER + PHOTOGRAPHS BY TED MORRISON

THERE'S NO DENYING the classic charm of clean white subway tile. A hallmark of vintage-style kitchens and baths, the rectangular tiles—traditionally 3 by 6 inches—create a look that's both fresh and timeless. But the simple shape offers an inviting canvas for color, too. Pale pastels and subdued neutrals are an easy warm-up for walls, while vibrant brights can really rev up a space—or serve as accents or an inset amid a field of something less dramatic.

So go ahead and pick a hue or two. We've got 13 bright ideas here and on the following pages.

1> sea and sky
WALKER ZANGER
Highlights These handmade, hand-glazed tiles have a watercolor-like wash of blue.
Cost $10 per square foot; walkerzanger.com

2> dreamsicle
ROCA TILE GROUP
Highlights Tangy orange pairs well with white—or makes a sunny statement on its own.
Cost $6 per square foot; missionstonetile.com

3> glowing emerald
HERITAGE TILE
Highlights A deep-green crackled glaze adds no-two-are-alike detail.
Cost $16 per square foot; subwaytile.com

4> natural look
HORUS ART CERAMICHE
Highlights This pale pistachio would marry well with stone finishes in warm tones.
Cost $8 per square foot; tiletimeonline.com

5> firecracker
U.S. CERAMIC TILE
Highlights Inset a border stripe of bright red to wake up walls in a subdued hue.
Cost $5 per square foot; homedepot.com

6> matte metallic
ANN SACKS
Highlights Variations in this bronze glaze give it a rich, burnished look.
Cost $16 per square foot; annsacks.com

7> bold yellow
SOLISTONE
Highlights As a backsplash in a white kitchen this gold hue would steal the show
Cost $19 per square foot, solistone com

8> dark denim
DALTILE
Highlights This deep blue can serve as an anchoring neutral—lovely in a bath
Cost $10 per square foot; daltile.com

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9> green sheen
TRIKEENAN
Highlights: This celery-green glaze has a subtle crackle for an aged look.
Cost: $16 per square foot; trikeenan.com

10> seaworthy
HERITAGE TILE
Highlights: Crackled bright ocean blue looks equal parts modern and vintage.
Cost: $16 per square foot; subwaytile.com

11> glossy greige
ALLEN + ROTH
Highlights: For the color-shy, taupe adds a sophisticated look to a kitchen or bath.
Cost: $4 per square foot; lowes.com

12> true blue
U.S. CERAMIC TILE
Highlights: High-energy cobalt takes equally well to white or another bright.
Cost: $5 per square foot; homedepot.com

13> slightly edgy
ANN SACKS
Highlights: A delicate outline of brighter blue makes this powder-pale tile a standout.
Cost: $14 per square foot; annsacks.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 101

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COLOR IDEA

Leaf-green living room

A botanically based color scheme accented with silver creates a soothing, sophisticated gathering spot

BY KATHRYN O'SHEA EVANS

THERE'S SOMETHING about being in nature that is inherently calming. "That's why green is an ideal color for a living room—it relaxes people," says Sara McLean, color expert for Dunn-Edwards Paints. Take this elegant space, where a variety of grass, fern, and hunter greens harmonize. A wall of antique botanical prints anchors the look and ties all the verdant shades together. Shimmery silver frames and tables reinforce the colors' cool undertones and dress up the space with a dose of luxury.

Read on for ways to achieve a similar look at your place without spending a lot of, well, green.

paint color

This deep, rich shade will complement a wide range of greens. Dunn-Edwards's Spring Juniper. $42 per gallon. dunnedwards.com for stores.

throw pillows

Cotton cushions trimmed in braided jute go with the Mother Nature–inspired theme. $68 for two. allmodern.com

side table

A hexagonal ceramic garden stool in glossy silver strikes the same note as the intricate Moroccan find at left. $123. amazon.com

glass vase

A statement piece in mouth-blown kelly green glass adds drama, especially when displaying a few tall stems. $30. ikea.com

coffee table

This chrome finish base echoes the silhouette of the version at left, but its tempered-glass tabletop has an airier look. $300. lampsplus.com

botanical art

Download as many antique illustrations as you like—free!—from biodiversity library.org. To have them printed on archival paper, go to fineprintimaging.com (11- by 14-inch prints from $17). Aluminum 11-by-14-inch frame, $17. wayfair.com

gourd lamp

This glass model with a brushed-steel pedestal has just as much polish as the designer version—for a fraction of the price. $40; lampsplus.com

mixed prints

Create a multishade palette with slipcovers and toss pillows in a medley of green fabrics. Striped fabric, $25 per yard. bandjfabrics.com. Other patterns, $22–$30 per yard. moodfabrics.com

plush sofa

Velvet upholstery lends a feeling of lavish comfort; this piece has removable covers you can dry-clean to help it wear well. $999. ikea.com

botanical wall sconce

DIY

Hung amid dozens of leafy prints, the antiqua candle sconces at left add interest—and instant romance when lit. To replicate the look, cut a botanical print to fit a crafts-store plaque; affix and coat with Mod Podge; then screw on a wall-mount candleholder. French corner basswood plaque, $11, michaels.com. Votive holder, $4.5, wayfair.com. Free print: biodiversitylibrary.org

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Discover XELJANZ
XELJANZ is a prescription medicine for adults with moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis for whom methotrexate did not work well.
XELJANZ can reduce the joint pain and swelling of RA, even without methotrexate. Visit XELJANZ.com to learn more
ASK YOUR RHEUMATOLOGIST IF XELJANZ IS RIGHT FOR YOU

What is XELJANZ?

XELJANZ is a prescription medicine called a Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor. XELJANZ is used to treat adults with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis in which methotrexate did not work well

- It is not known if XELJANZ is safe and effective in people with hepatitis B or C
- XELJANZ is not for people with severe liver problems
- It is not known if XELJANZ is safe and effective in children

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about XELJANZ?

Serious infections: XELJANZ can lower the ability of your immune system to fight infections. Some people have serious infections while taking XELJANZ, including tuberculosis (TB), and infections caused by bacteria, fungi, or viruses that can spread throughout the body. Some people have died from these infections. Your healthcare provider should test you for TB before starting XELJANZ, and monitor you closely for signs and symptoms of TB infection during treatment. You should not start taking XELJANZ if you have any kind of infection, unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.

Cancer and immune system problems. XELJANZ may increase your risk of certain cancers by changing the way your immune system works. Lymphoma and other cancers, including skin cancers, have happened in patients taking XELJANZ.

Some people who have taken XELJANZ with certain other medicines to prevent kidney transplant rejection have had a problem with certain white blood cells growing out of control (Epstein Barr Virus-associated post transplant lymphoproliferative disorder).

Tears (perforation) in the stomach or intestines. Some people taking XELJANZ get tears in their stomach or intestine. This happens most often in people who also take nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), corticosteroids, or methotrexate. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have fever and stomach-area pain that does not go away, and a change in your bowel habits.

Changes in lab test results. Your healthcare provider should do blood tests before you start receiving XELJANZ, and at certain times while you are taking XELJANZ, to check for the following side effects:

- **changes in lymphocyte counts.** Lymphocytes are white blood cells that help the body fight off infections.
- **low neutrophil counts.** Neutrophils are white blood cells that help the body fight off infections.
- **low red blood cell count.** This may mean that you have anemia, which may make you feel weak and tired.

Your healthcare provider should also routinely check certain liver tests. You should not receive XELJANZ if your lymphocyte count, neutrophil count, or red blood cell count is too low or your liver tests are too high. Your healthcare provider may stop your XELJANZ treatment for a period of time if needed because of changes in these blood test results. Your healthcare provider should do blood tests to check your cholesterol levels 4-8 weeks after you start XELJANZ, and as needed after that.

Before taking XELJANZ, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- think you have an infection or have symptoms of an infection such as fever, sweating, or chills, muscle aches, cough, shortness of breath, blood in phlegm, weight loss, warm, red, or painful skin or sores on your body, diarrhea or stomach pain, burning when you urinate or urinating more often than normal, or feeling very tired
- are being treated for an infection
- get a lot of infections or have infections that keep coming back
- have diabetes, HIV, or a weak immune system. People with these conditions have a higher chance for infections
- have TB, or have been in close contact with someone with TB
- live or have lived in, or have traveled to certain parts of the country (such as the Ohio and Mississippi River valleys and the Southwest) where there is an increased chance for getting certain kinds of fungal infections (histoplasmosis, coccidioidomycosis, or blastomycosis). These infections may happen or become more severe if you use XELJANZ. Ask your healthcare provider if you do not know if you have lived in an area where these infections are common.
- have or have had hepatitis B or C, or liver problems
- have ever had any type of cancer
- have kidney problems
- have any stomach area (abdominal) pain or been diagnosed with diverticulitis (inflammation in parts of the large intestine) or ulcers in your stomach or intestines
- have had a reaction to tofacitinib or any of the ingredients in XELJANZ
- have recently received or are scheduled to receive a vaccine. People taking XELJANZ should not receive live vaccines but can receive non-live vaccines
- have any other medical conditions
- plan to become pregnant or are pregnant. It is not known if XELJANZ will harm an unborn baby.
  Pregnancy Registry: Pfizer has a registry for pregnant women who take XELJANZ. The purpose of this registry is to check the health of the pregnant mother and her baby. If you are pregnant or become pregnant while taking XELJANZ, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can join this pregnancy registry or you may contact the registry at 1-877-311-8972 to enroll.
- plan to breastfeed or are breastfeeding

After starting XELJANZ, call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of an infection. XELJANZ can make you more likely to get infections or make worse any infection that you have.

Tell your healthcare provider about all of the medicines you take, especially any other medicines to treat your rheumatoid arthritis.

You should not take tocilizumab (Actemra®), etanercept (Enbrel®), adalimumab (Humira®), infliximab (Remicade®), rituximab (Rituxan®), abatacept (Orencia®), anakinra (Kineret®), certolizumab pegol (Cimzia®), golimumab (Simponi®), azathioprine, cyclosporine, or other immunosuppressive drugs while you are taking XELJANZ. Taking XELJANZ with these medicines may increase your risk of infection.

- Tell your healthcare provider if you are taking medicines that affect the way certain liver enzymes work. Ask your healthcare provider if you are not sure if your medicine is one of these.

What are other possible side effects of XELJANZ?

XELJANZ may cause serious side effects. Including hepatitis B or C activation infection in people who carry the virus in their blood. If you are a carrier of the hepatitis B or C virus (viruses that affect the liver), the virus may become active while you use XELJANZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you have the following symptoms of a possible hepatitis B or C infection: feeling very tired, skin or eyes look yellow, little or no appetite, vomiting, clay-colored bowel movements, fevers, chills, stomach discomfort, muscle aches, dark urine, and skin rash.

Common side effects of XELJANZ include: upper respiratory tract infections (common cold, sinus infections), headache, diarrhea, and nasal congestion, sore throat, and runny nose (nasopharyngitis).

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see additional Patient Information on the following page.

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XELJANZ®
(tofacitinib citrate)
5 mg tablets

XELJANZ
[tofacitinib citrate]

CONSUMER BRIEF SUMMARY
XELJANZ (ZEE JANS) (tofacitinib)

Read the Medication Guide that comes with XELJANZ before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This brief summary does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about XELJANZ?
XELJANZ may cause serious side effects, including:

1. Serious infections.
XELJANZ is a medicine that affects your immune system. XELJANZ can lower the ability of your immune system to fight infections. Some people have serious infections while taking XELJANZ, including tuberculosis (TB), and infections caused by bacteria, fungi, or viruses that can spread throughout the body. Some people have died from these infections.

- Your healthcare provider should test you for TB before starting XELJANZ.
- Your healthcare provider should monitor you closely for signs and symptoms of TB infection during treatment with XELJANZ.

You should not start taking XELJANZ if you have any kind of infection unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.

Before starting XELJANZ, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- think you have an infection or have symptoms of an infection such as:
  - fever, sweating, or chills
  - muscle aches
  - cough
  - shortness of breath
  - blood in phlegm
  - weight loss
  - warm, red, or painful skin or sores on your body
  - diarrhea or stomach pain
  - burning when you urinate or urinating more often than normal
  - feeling very tired
- are being treated for an infection
- get a lot of infections or have infections that keep coming back
- have diabetes, HIV, or a weak immune system. People with these conditions have a higher chance for infections
- have TB, or have been in close contact with someone with TB
- live or have lived, or have traveled to certain parts of the country (such as the Ohio and Mississippi River valleys and the Southwest) where there is an increased chance for getting certain kinds of fungal infections (histoplasmosis, coccidioidomycosis, or blastomycosis). These infections may happen or become more severe if you use XELJANZ. Ask your healthcare provider if you do not know if you have lived in an area where these infections are common
- have or have had hepatitis B or C

After starting XELJANZ, call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of an infection. XELJANZ can make you more likely to get infections or make worse any infection that you have.

2. Cancer and immune system problems.
XELJANZ may increase your risk of certain cancers by changing the way your immune system works.

- Lymphoma and other cancers, including skin cancers, have happened in patients taking XELJANZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you have ever had any type of cancer.
- Some people who have taken XELJANZ with certain other medicines to prevent kidney transplant rejection have had a problem with certain white blood cells growing out of control (Epstein Barr Virus–associated post transplant lymphoproliferative disorder).

3. Tears (perforations) in the stomach or intestines.
- Tell your healthcare provider if you have had diverticulitis (inflammation in parts of the large intestine) or ulcers in your stomach or intestines. Some people taking XELJANZ get tears in their stomach or intestine. This happens most often in people who also take nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), corticosteroids, or methotrexate.
- Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have fever and stomach area pain that does not go away, and a change in your bowel habits.

4. Changes in certain laboratory test results.
Your healthcare provider should do blood tests before you start receiving XELJANZ and while you take XELJANZ to check for the following side effects:

- **changes in lymphocyte counts.** Lymphocytes are white blood cells that help the body fight off infections.
- **low neutrophil counts.** Neutrophils are white blood cells that help the body fight off infections.
- **low red blood cell count.** This may mean that you have anemia, which may make you feel weak and tired.

Your healthcare provider should routinely check certain liver tests.
You should not receive XELJANZ if your lymphocyte count, neutrophil count, or red blood cell count is too low or your liver tests are too high.
Your healthcare provider may stop your XELJANZ treatment for a period of time if needed because of changes in these blood test results.

You may also have changes in other laboratory tests, such as your blood cholesterol levels. Your healthcare provider should do blood tests to check your cholesterol levels 4 to 8 weeks after you start receiving XELJANZ, and as needed after that. Normal cholesterol levels are important to good heart health.

See "What are the possible side effects of XELJANZ?" for more information about side effects.

What is XELJANZ?
XELJANZ is a prescription medicine called a Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor. XELJANZ is used to treat adults with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis in whom methotrexate did not work well.

It is not known if XELJANZ is safe and effective in people with hepatitis B or C.
XELJANZ is not for people with severe liver problems.
It is not known if XELJANZ is safe and effective in children.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking XELJANZ?
XELJANZ may not be right for you. Before taking XELJANZ, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have an infection. See "What is the most important information I should know about XELJANZ?"
- have liver problems
- have kidney problems
- have any stomach area (abdominal) pain or been diagnosed with diverticulitis or ulcers in your stomach or intestines
- have had a reaction to tofacitinib or any of the ingredients in XELJANZ
- have recently received or are scheduled to receive a vaccine. People who take XELJANZ should not receive live vaccines. People taking XELJANZ can receive non-live vaccines.
- have any other medical conditions
- plan to become pregnant or are pregnant. It is not known if XELJANZ will harm an unborn baby.

  Pregnancy Registry: Pfizer has a registry for pregnant women who take XELJANZ. The purpose of this registry is to check the health of the pregnant mother and her baby. If you are pregnant or become pregnant while taking XELJANZ, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can join this pregnancy registry or you may contact the registry at 1-877-311-8972 to enroll.
- plan to breastfeed or are breastfeeding. You and your healthcare provider should decide if you will take XELJANZ or breastfeed. You should not do both.

Tell your healthcare provider about all of the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. XELJANZ and other medicines may affect each other causing side effects.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- any other medicines to treat your rheumatoid arthritis. You should not take tocilizumab (Actemra®), etanercept (Enbrel®), adalimumab (Humira®), infliximab (Remicade®), rituximab (Rituxan®), abatacept (Orencia®), anakinra (Kineret®), certolizumab pegol (Cimzia®), golimumab (Simponi®), azathioprine, cyclosporine or other immunosuppressive drugs while you are taking XELJANZ. Taking XELJANZ with these medicines may increase your risk of infection.
- **medicines that affect the way certain liver enzymes work.** Ask your healthcare provider if you are not sure if your medicine is one of these.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take XELJANZ?

- Take XELJANZ as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.
- Take XELJANZ 2 times a day with or without food.
- If you take too much XELJANZ, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

What are possible side effects of XELJANZ?
XELJANZ may cause serious side effects, including:

- See "What is the most important information I should know about XELJANZ?"
- **Hepatitis B or C activation infection** in people who carry the virus in their blood. If you are a carrier of the hepatitis B or C virus (viruses that affect the liver), the virus may become active while you use XELJANZ. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests before you start treatment with XELJANZ and while you are using XELJANZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any of the following symptoms of a possible hepatitis B or C infection:
  - feel very tired
  - skin or eyes look yellow
  - little or no appetite
  - vomiting
  - clay colored bowel movements
  - fevers
  - chills
  - stomach discomfort
  - muscle aches
  - dark urine
  - skin rash

Common side effects of XELJANZ include:

- upper respiratory tract infections (common cold, sinus infections)
- headache
- diarrhea
- nasal congestion, sore throat, and runny nose (nasopharyngitis)

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of XELJANZ. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

You may also report side effects to Pfizer at 1-800-438-1985.

General information about the safe and effective use of XELJANZ
Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a brief summary. Do not use XELJANZ for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give XELJANZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This brief summary summarizes the most important information about XELJANZ. If you would like more information, talk to your healthcare provider. You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about XELJANZ that is written for health professionals.

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This brief summary is based on XELJANZ Prescribing Information LAB-0445-7.0 and Medication Guide LAB-0535-2.0.
Issued: May 2014

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Pfizer

COLOR IDEAS

Paint adds personality

Sophisticated shades enhance the simple lines and pretty details of a Folk Victorian

BY KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS • ILLUSTRATIONS BY DRAWGATE INC

"WE ARE HAVING the hardest time choosing paint colors!" says Christi Noel of the 1896 home near Baltimore that she shares with her husband, Proof. The unpainted lady has stood primed for years. To jump-start the decision process, we turned to Denver architectural color consultant James Martin.

To stay true to the Victorian maxim that house colors should work in their immediate environment—which, here, is two leafy acres—Martin chose three earthy palettes. "We deepened the body color and lightened the trim so that the porch would step out," he explains. In the scheme at right, a toned-down taupe accents the shingles on the gable end. "You don't want bright earrings to ruin your whole outfit," says Martin. "It's the same with balancing the look of a house."

Christi's reaction? "I love how the accent colors really draw your eye to the details—I feel like we finally have ideas we can act on."

WANT A PHOTOSHOP REDO?
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PHOTOS (PAINT RABBIS BRIAN HENRY MEJIC; DIGITAL STUDIO)

palettes

Here are three tone-on-tone color schemes to give a simple Victorian era house a harmonious look.

calm yellow "Colors can get out of hand—too bright, too strong—especially on a house of this size," says Martin. "This body color is convivial and welcoming." To complement the brick-red door, he chose olive green for the shutters, gingerbread porch trim, and cornice work. Sherwin-Williams's Ivoire (1), Summer White (2), Buff (3), Colonial Revival Green Stone (4), and Sierra Redwood (5).

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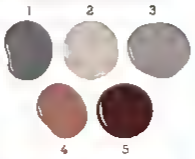
cool gray-blue "It was a Victorian rule of thumb for front doors and shutters to be the same color," says Martin. That works well here, where the brownish-red front door and shutters contrast with the gray-blue body of the house but also create a balanced look. Paler tones—soft blue in the gable end, and beige accents—highlight details and tie the color scheme together. Sherwin-Williams's Steely Gray (1), Westhighland White (2), Monorail Silver (3), Interface Tan (4), and Arresting Auburn (5).



warm khaki "This relatively simple house doesn't lend itself to an elaborate painted lady color scheme," says Martin. "Subdued colors keep the final product from being too over-the-top." The body here is an olive green, echoing the surrounding farmland. Camel, sage, and tan accents add visual interest but create a cohesive look. Benjamin Moore's Northampton Putty (1), Standish White (2), Oak Ridge (3), Richmond Gold (4), and Gloucester Sage (5).

PHOTOS: (PAINT TABS) BRIAN HENRY/TIME INC. DIGITAL

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 107

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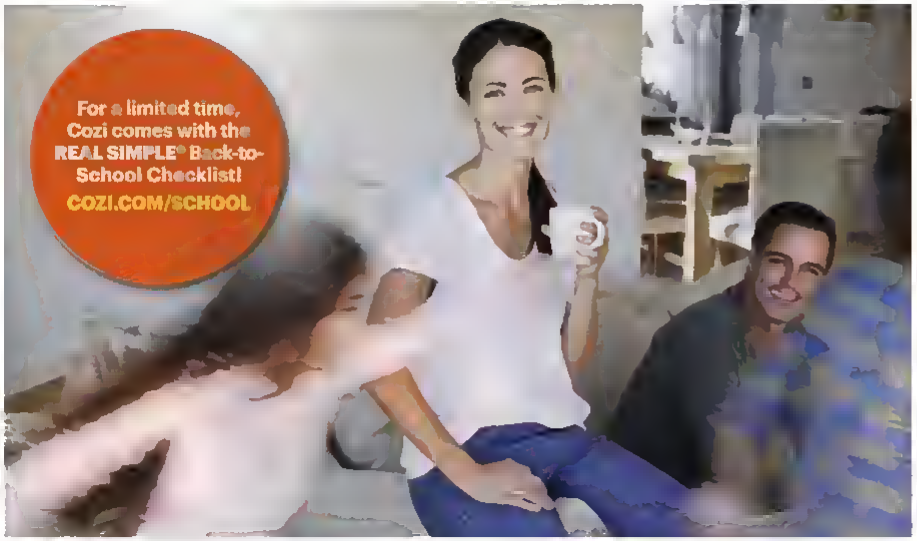

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COZI
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Tips for better bulbs

Plant now, enjoy later—our strategies will ensure a sensational show of tulips, daffodils, and other spring blooms

BY KATE KARAM

EVEN AS SUMMER TURNS to fall, it's time to think spring. Now into early autumn is the ideal time to plan, plot out, and prep beds and borders for swaths of colorful flowering bulbs.

Depending on your climate and growing zone, store shelves will soon be stocked with crocus, tulip, daffodil, allium, hyacinth, and other bulbs. Catalog companies are already taking orders. Planting bulbs is certainly easy enough: Dig a hole three times as deep as the bulb is high, toss in some bone meal, drop in a bulb with the pointed tip up, cover with soil, lightly tamp down, repeat.

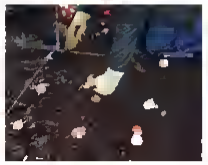
But a few simple and sensible ideas can help you get a bigger, better display without having to guesstimate quantities, Google optimal planting times, or figure out how to camouflage dying foliage come May. So whether you're a "tulipomaniac" looking for a few fresh ideas or a novice who just picked up a bag of bulbs at the home store on a whim and are wondering where to begin, we've got advice in spades on the pages that follow.

A hand bulb planter speeds the job of making dozens and dozens of holes to drop bulbs into.

PHOTO: GAP PHOTOS

1> Do the math for fuller beds

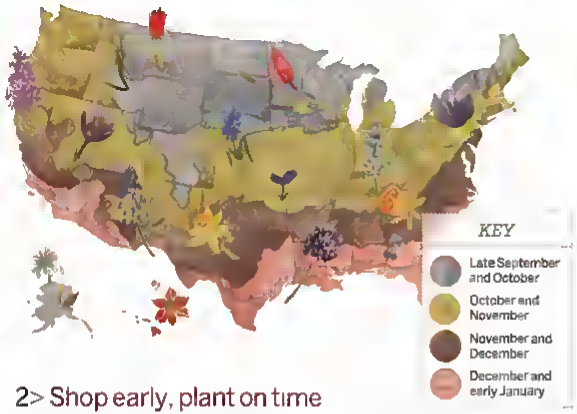
Don t estimate calculate! The key to a beautiful show ot bulbs is planting enough—and most ot us simply don t Change this by tollowing guidallnes from bulb growers for recommended quantities at right The math is simple Figure the square tootage of the space you wish to plant then use our chart to determine the quantity of a specitic bulb you ll need per square foot Adjust quantities based on the siza ot your bulbs



Generally top-size tulip bulbs ara 12cm or larger in circumference daffodils at least 16cm So, for example to plant a 10 square foot bed with large tulip bulbs multiply 10 × 6 for a total of 60 bulbs Think ot it as A (area) × B (bulbs) = C (color)

HOW MANY BULBS PER SQUARE FOOT?

Oriental lily	3–4
Allium (large)	3–4
Hyacinth	5–6
Standard tulips	5–6
Large daffodils	7–9
Crocus	8–12
Species tulips	9–13
Muscari	20
Scilla	20
Anemone	20



2> Shop early, plant on time

Put off buying bulbs and you risk missing out on the best colors or unique varieties—you might also be left with bulbs that ara not in peak condition Once they ara removed trom the ideal environment of a growing tacility the race is on to get bulbs in the ground before they go mushy or dry out and split Most vendors ship bulb orders based on your growing zona but it s good to know the optimal window tor planting Ideally bulbs should be in the ground six weeks prior to the first ground-freezing hard frost Tha chart above is synced to the USDA Climate Hardiness Zone Map Follow the color key to know when to plant spring flowering bulbs in your area In tha warmest winter regions (Zones 7 through 11) most bulbs that produce large flowers—including tulips hyacinths and alliums—require supplemental chilling Stora them in an empty crispar drawer In a refrigerator for at least eight to 10 weeks prior to planting

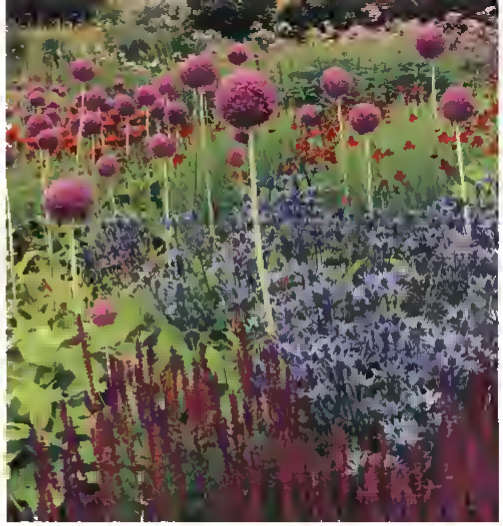
3> Layer bulbs for successive blooms

By planting different varieties ot bulbs with staggered bloom times at different depths in the same hole you can have flowars from early through late spring even in a tight space A 1-foot diameter planting area dug 1 toot deep can accommodate seven large bulbs such as daffodils six medium size bulbs such as tulips and eight small bulbs such as crocus

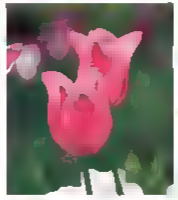
Once you va dug the hole enrich the removed soil with a shovelful of compost and set aside Mix a balanced (10-10-10) fertilizer with the loosened soil at the bottom of the hole in clay soils add a 1-inch layer of sand or paa siza gravel for drainage Placa the largest bulbs in the hole roots down and pointed tip up close but not touching (overcrowding can deter blooming) Press bulbs firmly to ensure good contact with soil then cover with 2 inches of your reserved soil mix Repeat with the medium size and than smallest bulbs covering with the last of the reserved soil Water well and keep moist throughout the fall then ceasa watering until spring Watch waves of colorful blooms for tour to six weaks come spring

4> Interplant bulbs with perennials

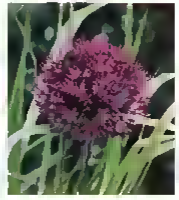
Spring-flowaring bulbs and early-to-midsummer blooming perennials go hand in hand In a mixed border bulbs launch the first round of color before perennials emarge to hide fading—but critical to keep—bulb foliage The trick is to match bulbs and perennials that bloom in sequanca and whose foliage height and scale ara complementary Cornell University s Flower Bulb Rasearch Program tested dozens of combinations to get tha best pairings (Find the tull list at thisoldhousa com/sep2014) See below for a few winning combinations



Late spring s 'Purple Sensation' allium wraps up its bloom just as sea holly (*Eryngium planum*) and purple *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna' (foreground) come on for summer



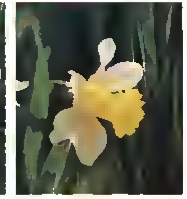
TULIP
WORKS WELL WITH
> Crocosmia 'Lucifer'
Crocosmia Lucifer
> Meadow cranesbill
Geranium pratense Splish Splash
> Oriental lily 'Stargazer'
Lilium Stargazer



ALLIUM
WORKS WELL WITH
> Bigleaf aster
Aster macrophyllus
> Star gentian
Gentiana cruciata
> Sage
Salvia nemorosa Caradonna

HYACINTH
WORKS WELL WITH
> Maltese cross
Lychnis chalcadanica Carnea
> Chinese rhubarb
Rheum palmatum Atrosanguineum
> Sedge
Carex morrow Ice Dance

CROCUS
WORKS WELL WITH
> Chinese ground orchid
Bletilla striata
> Hosta 'Patriot'
Hosta Patriot
> Geranium 'Biokovo'
Geranium cantabrigiense Biokovo



DAFFODIL
WORKS WELL WITH
> Catmint 'Six Hills Giant'
Nepeta Six Hills Giant
> Phlox 'Bill Baker'
Phlox paniculata Bill Baker
> Fern-leaf yarrow 'Gold Plate'
Achillea filipendulina Gold Plate

5> Make up for lost time

Say you missed your chance the ground is now hard and you ve anded up with bags of unplanted bulbs sitting in the garage If left out of soil for too long bulbs will dehydrate and die But all may not be lost If garden soil is frozen or very wet trom winter rains wait for a thaw or a break in the weather and plant bulbs a little deeper than normal to protect emerging roots from the cold Or plant the bulbs in pots and place them in a cool (not freezing) dark spot watering spangly throughout the winter then bring the planted pots outside in the spring As a last resort leave the bagged bulbs where they are and in early spring plant them when the ground starts to thaw You might still get a tew blooms this season ■

SEE HOW IT'S DONE
Never planted bulbs before? Watch a step-by-step video at **thisoldhouse.com/sep2014**

PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: JAN BARTEL/GAP PHOTOS; DANIELLE DAY; FRANK DEITSCH/GAP PHOTOS; MARK DUBRAVSKI/GAP PHOTOS; © JIE BARNWIN; KAP PHOTOS; PHOTOS: ROB WILLIAMS/GAP PHOTOS; JOHN MOTTA/GAP PHOTOS; EDITORS/GAP PHOTOS; OPPOSITE PAGE: PAUL DEBOIS/GAP PHOTOS; ILLUSTRATIONS: JOHN REGENHALL

This primer is killer.

Introducing Mold Killing Primer. A breakthrough primer that kills mold and primes at the same time. Allowing you to paint directly over mold, mildew and odor causing bacteria. The newest innovation from Zinsser. Mold Killing Primer.

ZINSSER
QUALITY SINCE 1849

THE HOME DEPOT
More saving. More doing.

COLOR IDEAS

No-fail shades for living spaces

Five great hues that can help turn bland and blah into warm and inviting

BY DEBORAH BALDWIN

IS WHITE'S MOMENT finally over? So one might conclude after peeking into homes with surprising new palettes, including soft blues, soothing greens, and buttery yellows. Trend watchers like to say that color choices are tied to fashion, travel, nature, or even pop culture. But whatever their inspiration, today's popular picks can give a traditional room a fresh look and alter the mood of a living space to make it more welcoming. "Soft, complex shades in particular allow whatever you put against them to work," says Dee Schlotter, senior color marketing manager at PPG Pittsburgh Paints—as you'll see in this room and the four that follow.

PHOTOS: DOUGLAS RIBB/AAP; KITCHENS: (ALL PART BABY) BRIAN HENRY/TIME INC. DIGITAL STUDIO

TWILIGHT BLUE

The cool gray blue that enriches these walls draws out complementary red, gold, and brown undertones in the furnishings—from the chair legs to the chest, the lampshade, "even the rusty color of the clock," notes Erika Woelfel, color marketing director at Behr. "Gray blue can recede," she says, "allowing the details to come forward." The popularity of duskier, more muted shades is part of a shift toward what she calls "comfortable colors," adding, "they are also ones that are easy to decorate with."

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK TRY

BEHR
Atmospheric

SILVERY GRAY

Gray is arguably the new "it" neutral—having sneaked up on beige and white in kitchens and baths to conquer walls all over the house. In living spaces like this one, "it whispers," says Dee Schlotter. "So whatever you put against it works and feels melded together." The key, she says, is to look for a gray that is "clean and light and provides a nice, quiet feel."

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK TRY

OLYMPIC
Thin Ice

MINT GREEN

"With green, there are so many variations, it's easy to find one that works for you," says designer Genevieve Gorder, a color expert for Valspar. This soft green feels cool and refreshing. Crisp white trim plays up its airy character, while warm brown wood and metal accents help ground it and give it a sophisticated edge. The result is a fresh look that keeps this traditional living room from feeling dated.

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK TRY

VALSPAR
Pillow Mint

LIVELY GREEN

"In a formal living space, the right green will be calming but still evoke a bit of energy and warmth," says Jackie Jordan, director of color marketing at Sherwin-Williams. The trick for a gathering space is to avoid overly bright or saturated hues with too much yellow. "Start with the green in a piece of art or fabric and go toward one that is a couple of shades lighter and has more gray in it, like the one here," she says. "Your goal should be a shade that is relaxed and soothing."

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK TRY

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS
Shagreen

PHOTOS: (TOP) DAVID BRITAIN/REAL HOMES/IPC SYNDICATION; (BOTTOM) RON HEARD/REAL HOMES/IPC SYNDICATION. (OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP) TERA DORVAN; (OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM) S. MARK WHITMORE/REAL HOMES/IPC

GOLDEN YELLOW

In this knit together space, a backdrop of soft yellow harmonizes with the honey tones in the wood, while chocolate-brown armchairs and a creamy white fireplace mantel anchor the space and add contrast. "This yellow is both mellow and elegant and creates a sense of tranquility," says Barbara Richardson, a color expert with Glidden. "It's warm and welcoming but has enough body to make a statement, especially when paired with white."

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK TRY

GLIDDEN
Natural Straw

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 107

Read this before you strip paint from wood

Finding out which method to use, and how to contain the debris, makes a messy job cleaner, safer, and more effective BY TOM O'BRIEN + PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREW McCAUL

EVERYONE KNOWS that the simplest way to rejuvenate a tired surface is to put on a fresh coat of paint. Eventually, however, all new paint becomes old paint. Whether it cracks and blisters or just forms a lumpy blanket of pigments and binders, it begs to come off.

Clearing away the old stuff and starting over with a baby-smooth, bare-wood surface is ideal. Getting there is tedious, dirty work, no doubt, but our start-to-finish guide will help you manage the mess and choose the best tools and techniques to get the results you want.

Which tools for which project

HEATERS use high temperatures to soften varnishes or multiple layers of paint so that the gunk can easily be removed with a scraper. They minimize dust and can lift years of paint. Downsides: Fumes and the risk of charred wood.

CHEMICAL STRIPPERS are liquids, gels, or pastes that dissolve paint. No dust. No paint chips. They're ideal for fine details, awkward shapes, and hitting spots you may have missed with a heat gun. Cons: They can be messy, smelly, and slow.

SANDERS, including power sanding disks and clapboard sanders, grind away paint. They're great for large, flat exterior surfaces but, unless hooked up to a vacuum to capture dust, ill advised for indoor work and anything with lead-based paint.

HOW TO KNOW WHEN WOOD IS WORTH EXPOSING

"If you're hoping to expose woodwork and finish it with a clear coat instead of paint, you need to determine whether it was originally varnished or painted," says painting contractor and *TOH* contributor Rich O'Neil. He recommends finding a hidden spot, such as inside a drawer or closet, and using a scraper to shave a test patch through the various paint layers. If the bottom layer is paint, it's a good sign that the wood is unworthy of stain. "If it's worth exposing, it was originally varnished," O'Neil says.

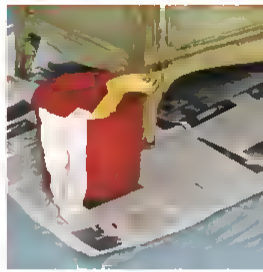
Three easy ways to test paint for lead

Nearly 90 percent of homes built before 1940 have some paint laden with this toxic metal. Although its use went into steep decline after 1950, lead-based paint wasn't banned in the U.S. until 1978. Here's how to detect it.

DIY TEST: Use a utility knife to make a V-shaped cut through all the layers of paint, then brush the groove with a LeadCheck swab (leadcheck.com). A bright red color indicates lead is present.

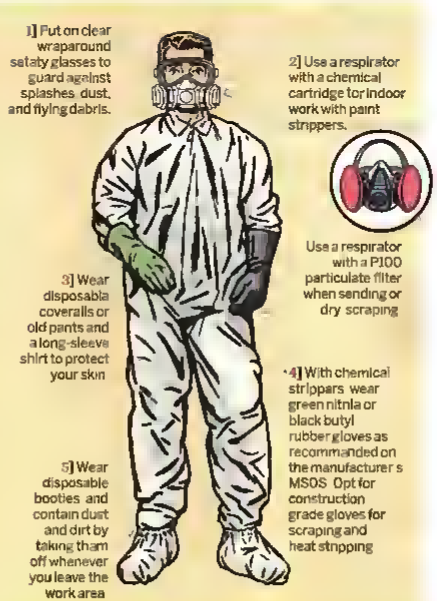
LAB TEST: Scrape a tablespoon of chips into a bag and send them to a lab for testing. It can take up to two weeks to get the results, but they're more reliable than a swab and typically cost less than $30 (prolabinc.com).

CALL A PRO: For a few hundred dollars, a licensed lead inspector will conduct an X-ray fluorescence test to identify the amount of lead present in all the painted surfaces in your home.



Dress for the job

Gear for handling fumes, paint chips, and caustic solvents


1] Put on clear wraparound safety glasses to guard against splashes, dust, and flying debris.
2] Use a respirator with a chemical cartridge for indoor work with paint strippers.
Use a respirator with a P100 particulate filter when sanding or dry scraping.
3] Wear disposable coveralls or old pants and a long-sleeve shirt to protect your skin.
4] With chemical strippers, wear green nitrile or black butyl rubber gloves as recommended on the manufacturer's MSDS. Opt for construction-grade gloves for scraping and heat stripping.
5] Wear disposable booties and contain dust and dirt by taking them off whenever you leave the work area.

ILLUSTRATIONS: ERIC LARSEN

GET THE LEAD OUT—SAFELY

Lead is nasty. Exposure can raise your blood pressure, stress your nervous system, and damage your memory, among other risks. It's especially toxic to children, whose developing brains are more sensitive to its effects. If you want to remove lead-based paint yourself, in addition to the dress and prep steps on this page, follow these precautions:

- **Use only heat or chemicals to avoid kicking up lead-laced chips and dust.**
- **If you must sand, use equipment fitted with a shroud and a HEPA vacuum attachment.**
- **Wet-sand stripped surfaces to minimize dust.**
- **If working outdoors, cover the ground with 6-mil plastic, extending the sheeting 10 feet beyond the work area.**
- **Place debris in contractor bags, seal with duct tape.**

Find more useful tips at www2.epa.gov/lead.

Prepare to strip indoors in 3 steps

1] Skip canvas drop cloths in favor of 6-mil plastic sheeting which won't trap fine grit or let chemicals seep through. Extend the sheeting at least 6 feet beyond the work area and overlap and tape the edges. To help avoid slips and absorb spills, cover the plastic with a layer of newspaper or contractor's paper.

2] Remove or cover items you do not plan to strip. If using chemicals, mask hinges and other hardware you can't remove with solvent-resistant painter's tape, like ScotchBlue. If working with heat, protect adjacent surfaces with aluminum foil, tape or a metal paint shield.

3] Use a 6-mil plastic sheeting and duct tape to seal off the workspace from the rest of the house.

DUST CONTROL

If working indoors, cover air vents in your workspace to keep dust and debris from circulating throughout the house.

When to bring in a pro

It's always better to determine beforehand that a job is too big, complicated, or dangerous to tackle yourself. In that case, you have a couple of options.

SEND IT OUT:
> If the pieces you want to strip are easily removable (such as doors, windows, or furniture) and feature intricate detailing (like mantel pieces or stair parts), consider sending them out to a professional with a dip tank. Pros use these special vats to soak entire pieces in liquid paint removers for faster, more thorough results.

HIRE IN:
> If you have a house's worth of trim or siding that must be stripped here quickly, or if you have lead-laden paint and can't remove it safely, bring in a qualified pro to do it on-site. Visit the EPA's website for certified lead-removal experts: cfpub.epa.gov/flpp/searchrrp_firm.htm

DCM: THE PAINT SOLVENT BEST LEFT ALONE

Years ago, if you needed a fast-acting chemical paint stripper, you chose a product that contained a seriously noxious chemical called methylene chloride (also called dichloromethane, or DCM), cranked up the fan, and got the job done quickly. Generally speaking, the faster a chemical eats through paint and finish, the more toxic it is, and DCM is fast—paint starts to bubble in minutes. It's also dangerous. Prolonged exposure to DCM, through the lungs or skin, has been linked to liver damage, cancer, and even death. The vapors can overwhelm air-purifying respirators, and just a few whiffs can leave you wheezing and dizzy. Europe banned it for residential use in 2010. While DCM-containing paint strippers are still widely sold in the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has tied the ingredient to 13 deaths in 10 states. Our advice: Check your labels and steer clear.

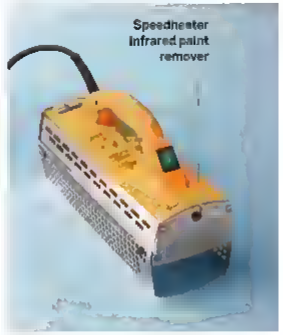
Safer options for removing paint with gels and pastes

If you're going to use a chemical stripper, know that anything that eats paint is dangerous and that doing the job without methylene chloride (see above) will be safer but slower. These products contain less toxic, less noxious ingredients and remove both latex and oil paints.

SMARTSTRIP ($64 per gallon)
A paste with a frosting-like consistency that can be brushed, rolled, or sprayed on. Clings well to vertical surfaces.
Active Ingredient: **Benzyl alcohol**
Strength: **One coat removes up to 15 layers of paint.**
Dwell time: **3 to 24 hours**
Removal: **Scrape off the paint, scrub off the residue with a wet nylon brush, and rinse with water.**

PEEL AWAY1 ($45 per 1¼ gallons)
This paste works with a paper cover to control evaporation. Ideal for lead paint and masonry, but can stain furniture woods.
Active Ingredient: Lye
Strength: **Up to 30 layers of paint can come off as easily as stripping sheets off a bed.**
Dwell time: **12 to 24 hours**
Removal: **Peel off the paper and scrub the surface with a wet brush, let dry thoroughly, then apply a neutralizing solution.**

CITRISTRIP ($20 per half gallon)
An orange gel best on furniture details and flat surfaces since it is thin.
Active Ingredient: **N-Methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP)**
Strength: **A ⅛-inch coat removes up to seven layers of paint.**
Dwell time: **30 minutes to 24 hours**
Removal: **Scrape off the paint with a plastic scraper and use an abrasive pad and mineral spirits to remove any lingering residue.**



Three tools to melt away paint

Heat is a tried-and-true method for softening thick layers of paint on flat surfaces or in tight spaces. The trick is to find the right temperature: too low and the job takes forever; too high and you could create harmful vapors, char the wood—or even set the house on fire.

HEAT GUNS look like high-powered hair dryers and blast hot, concentrated air through a nozzle to loosen paint. Most models have HIGH and LOW settings, but burns and fires can result even on the lowest setting if you let the gun rest in one place for too long.

INFRARED DEVICES use infrared rays to heat up and loosen the bond between paint and its substrate without generating noise or dust. They work quickly: a 30-second blast can soften decades of paint. They also keep paint temperatures below 500°F, well under the point at which wood ignites. The heat draws moisture from the wood, improving its ability to hold new paint. But these tools are bulky (see example, above) and hard to use in tight spaces.

STEAM STRIPPERS use water vapor to soften paint without heating it above 212°F, eliminating fire risks. And the condensation minimizes dust and fumes. On the downside, the process can generate a lot of moisture and saturate wood.

The best technique for handling heat

Heat stripping is like a tango between the hand holding the heater and the one with the scraper. Hover the device over the surface. When the paint bubbles, slowly move the heater along and try to develop a rhythm so that you're scraping and heating in unison. Keep a metal paint tray handy for when you take a break and need to set the device down.

PAINT SCRAPERS 101

No paint-stripping endeavor is complete without an arsenal of scrapers to usher away softened paint.

> **A 5-in-1 scraper—also known as the "painter's tool" because the curved edge can be used to clean a paint roller—is the go-to tool for removing most types of paint.**

> **Metal pull scrapers come with replaceable blade profiles to match the surface you need to strip, offering more control than push scrapers in tight spots or on fine details.**

> **When your scraping results start to look sloppy, rotate the head on the metal scraper until you run out of fresh edges. After that, replace or resharpen the blades.**

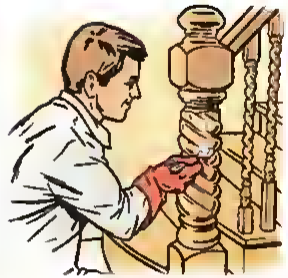
> **Carbide blades hold an edge much longer than steel, but resharpening requires a diamond stone and some skill.**

> **Steel blades dull quickly but can easily be resharpened with a mill file, a pocket stone, or even a piece of medium-grit sandpaper.**

> **When using push scrapers, choose plastic over metal, to avoid gouging; this is especially important with chemical strippers, which can soften wood.**

ILLUSTRATION: ERIC LARSEN

PRO ADVICE
"Keep a hand file nearby to quickly restore the edge of a steel scraper," says *TOH* general contractor Tom Silva. "Brace the scraper against a flat surface, try to follow the original bevel, and always file in the same direction."



Detail work

Some simple tools can help you get rid of those last bits of paint.

DENTAL PICKS make it easy to dig out the remaining specks of debris that hide in nooks and crannies.

SANDING CORDS work like dental floss to remove residue from crevices in turned columns and spindles.

OLD CREDIT CARDS OR GIFT CARDS can be repurposed as custom scrapers by cutting them to match the surface you need to strip.

TEASPOONS AND TABLESPOONS are handy for scraping paint from concave or convex moldings.

THE RIGHT WAY TO CLEAN UP

1] Use water to mist the debris on layers of paper and plastic drop cloths underfoot before carefully folding them, dirty side inward. Tape all edges shut or seal in heavy-duty trash bags for disposal.

2] Vacuum the entire work area with a vacuum equipped with a HEPA filter to pick up any dust and debris.

3] Wipe surfaces with a damp cloth or sponge and a household detergent; empty the dirty rinse water into a container, never a sink, bathtub, or toilet. Check with your town about hazardous-waste collection programs.

4] Give the surfaces and any uncarpeted floors a final wipedown with a clean, damp cloth. ■

The Softer Side Collection

A fresh arrangement of pastels and soft hues. Explore the new Softer Side color collection at your local Sherwin-Williams store or sherwin-williams.com/hgtvhome

Join us on

HGTV HOME by SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

Coordinated color collections for your home.

COLOR IDEA

Install a linoleum tile floor

Use cork-backed click-together squares to lay a floating floor in an endless array of colorful patterns

BY PAUL HOPE • PHOTOGRAPHS BY RYAN BENYI

COST $6.99 per square foot
TIME Two days
DIFFICULTY Moderate
Connecting tongues on both sides of a corner can be tricky

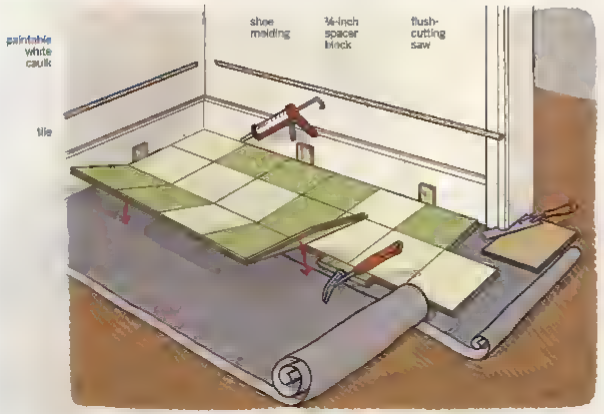
IF THE WORD "LINOLEUM" makes you think of grandma's flecked kitchen floor, think again. In tile form, linoleum offers a nice alternative to ceramic or wood, and certainly vinyl, in just about any room. It's colorful, cushiony underfoot, and warm to the touch. It's also hypoallergenic. That's all thanks to its construction of linseed oil, sawdust, and cork. Best of all, the tiles click together to form a floating floor, meaning they go down without needing to be glued. Follow along as *This Old House* senior technical editor Mark Powers demonstrates how to lay this eye-catching floor, and you may never think of linoleum in the same way again.

STYLING AMY R. HUGHES

Tiles: Forbo Marmoleum Click 12 inch Square Tiles in Lime and Barbados, $6.99 per square foot, greenbuildingsupply.com

DAY-TO-DAY TIMELINE

SATURDAY Prep the room and lay the tiles (Steps 1–5)
SUNDAY Move furniture back into the room.



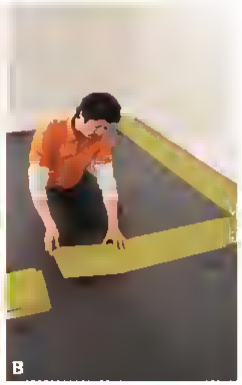
Find downloadable patterns for this and three other designs at thisoldhouse.com/sep2014

TOOLS

tape measure
colored pencils
graph paper
flush-cutting saw
utility knife
⅛-inch spacer blocks
jigsaw with a 14-tooth-per-inch blade
clamps
hammer
combination square
½-inch chisel
caulk gun
miter saw to trim shoe molding
pneumatic nailer to install shoe molding
air compressor

MATERIALS

Forbo Marmoleum Click 12-inch square tiles Get 10 percent more than the area to be covered
foam underlayment
translucent vinyl adhesive caulk
paintable white caulk
18-gauge brads to install the shoe molding
shoe molding



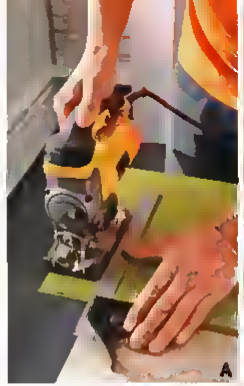
Before you begin: Map out your pattern with colored pencils and graph paper—each square equals 1 square foot of the room. Total the squares for each color and order an extra 10 percent of each. Store the boxes of tile flat and unopened in the room for two to three days.

1 PREP THE ROOM

A] **Flush-cut the casings.** Trim any door casings with a flush-cutting saw so that the tile can slip underneath. Use a section of underlayment and a tile—upside down to prevent scratches—to gauge the height of the cut. Then cover the entire subfloor with foam underlayment. Join the sections along the adhesive strip and trim them to fit with a utility knife.

B] **Dry-fit the tiles.** Place ⅛-inch spacer blocks along the baseboard of the room. Orient the tongue edges of one tile toward a corner and snug it against the spacers. Starting from there, click together two perpendicular rows of tiles, as shown, to scout out the size of your fractional tiles in each direction. Measure between the last full tile and the baseboard in each run, subtract the measurement from 12, and divide by 2. You'll trim that amount off the tiles in the first and last courses.

ILLUSTRATION: GREGORY NEMEC

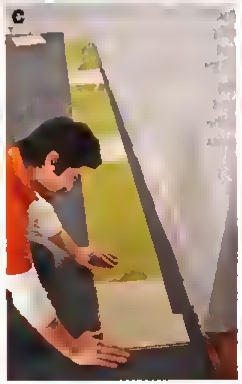


2 LAY THE FIRST COURSE

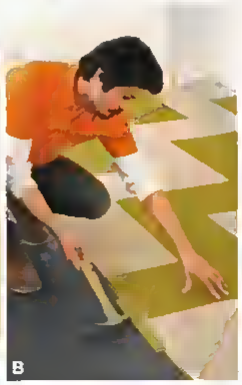
A] **Trim the first course.** Use a jigsaw to trim the tiles in the first course. Be sure to orient the tiles correctly and remove the top edges, which have tongues. In our case, the gap for the fractional tile was 10½ inches, so we chose to cut 1½ inches off the first course instead of splitting the difference. That gave us a 1½-inch extension into the threshold and saved us from trimming the last course.

B] **Orient the first tile.** Starting at the left-hand side of the longest wall, place the first tile with its tongue edges toward the corner, against the spacers. This leaves two groove edges exposed, one for the neighboring tile and one for the second course. Working left to right, angle the left-hand tongue of the second tile into the right-hand groove of the first, as shown. Align their top and bottom edges, then press the tile flat. Continue laying tiles until you meet a threshold, as we did, or the right-hand wall—in which case you should trim, fit the last tile and skip to Step 3A. For a threshold, continue to Step 2C.

C] **Work around thresholds.** Connect the tile that straddles the threshold to its trimmed neighbor, with their top edges aligned. Hold a combination square against the jamb and mark the width of the notch. Now shift the tile to align the bottom edges, and mark the depth of the notch. Use the square to connect the perpendicular marks, and cut the notch with a jigsaw. Pull the first course from the wall to connect the notched tile, as shown, and slip it in place under the flush-cut casings.



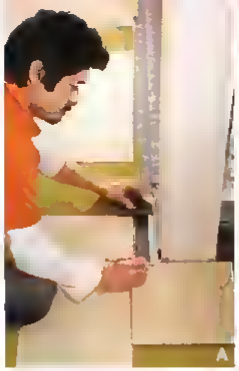
TIP If you want to avoid using shoe molding to cover the expansion gap, remove the baseboard before starting and reinstall it as the final step.

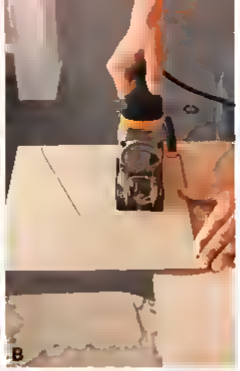


3 ESTABLISH THE PATTERN

A] **Lay the second row.** Hold the first tile at a slight angle to the floor, as shown, and insert its top tongue into the bottom groove of its counterpart in the first course. Maintain that angle and connect the next tile to its right-hand groove, coming in at a second angle. Now drop the second tile in plane with the first and slip its top tongue into the groove of the first course. Continue adding tiles until the end of the course, then drop the entire course in place.

B] **Continue the pattern.** Continue the installation according to your graph paper pattern. Ours alternates rows that repeat three tiles of one color, then one of the other. For each course, check that the exposed groove side edges are flush. Where they're not, snap a scrap tongue piece into the grooves of adjacent tiles and use a hammer, as shown, to lightly tap the protruding edge back in line. Inspect the intersections where four tiles meet, to ensure that all edges are aligned and that the seams are not visible.



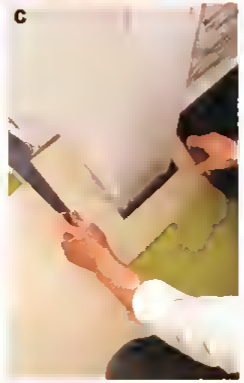


4 WORK AROUND OBSTACLES

A] **Mark the notch.** Butt the tile to be notched against the column's spacers. Align the head of the combination square with the right-hand seam of the tile's destination. Hold the blade against the spacers, extend it to meet your tile's finished edge, and mark the start of the notch, as shown. Bring the square to your tile, set its blade at your mark, and trace the blade to its end. Do the same for the other side, then connect the ends of the two lines.

B] **Cut the notch.** Clamp the tile extending off your work surface. Since you can't make 90-degree turns with a jigsaw, start cutting on a curved path until you meet the diagonal corner on a perpendicular. Then cut along the other line, as shown, to connect with the cut at the corner. Now cut the other two sides of the notch.

C] **Fit the notched tile.** The notched tile can't be angled to fit into the previous course. Instead, use a chisel to shave off the lip blocking the groove on the receiving tile (see Step 5A) and the nubs underneath the tongue on the notched tile. Run a bead of translucent vinyl adhesive caulk on the groove, angle the notched tile into its neighbor, as shown, then lay it flat around the column. Press the caulked edges together and wipe up any excess adhesive.



SEE HOW IT'S DONE
To watch a video of this project, blipp this page or go to thisoldhouse.com/sep2014

5 LAY THE FINAL COURSES

A] **Trim the groove.** A baseboard heater stood in the way of angling our final course's tiles into place. We used the chisel to shave down the groove along the penultimate course as well as the right-hand edges of the tiles in the final course before they went in. Once you remove the nubs underneath the tongues on the tiles in the final course, you'll be able to slip them in place without angling them. If necessary, first trim the tiles to fit with a jigsaw, per Step 2A.

B] **Glue the groove.** For each tile in the final course, run a bead of adhesive caulk on the grooves receiving the tile. Snug each tile into place, as shown, then use a damp rag to quickly wipe away any adhesive that squeezes out at the joints. Remove the spacers and run a thick bead of paintable white caulk around the perimeter of the room and any obstacles, such as our column. Install shoe molding to conceal the gap. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 107

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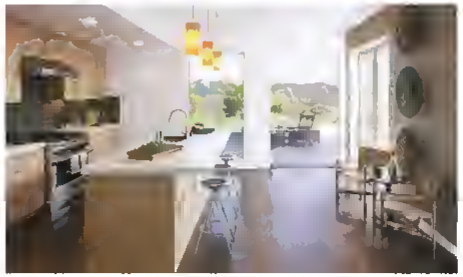


COLOR IDEAS

well balanced

A seasoned architect and his spiffed-up foursquare offer lessons in scale, proportion, and picking paint colors

By **Deborah Baldwin** • Photographs by **Tria Giovan**
Produced by **Colette Scanlon** • Styling by **Jorge Arango**

Layered trim and furnishings and a polished palette give the living room a big, gracious presence. Paint: Farrow & Ball's Strong (walls), and Green (decorative columns) and Hopper White (trim and ceiling).

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK TRY

COLORHOUSE
Glass 03

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS
Vital Yellow

BENJAMIN MOORE
Hannah Banana

If you've ever wondered

how to make a period home look more authentic than it already is, take a peek inside Gary Brewer's century-old house in Yonkers, New York. With each additional bit of his tinkering—decorative beams here, wainscoting there, beadboard overhead—the vintage vibe seems to grow stronger. Visitors are drawn to the old-fashioned comfort of the place, which comes on like a warm embrace. Credit not the home's venerable age but an owner with an eye for well-proportioned baseboard and overmantel trim.

Contemporary white-walled houses pretty much leave Gary cold. "They are all about the individual expression of the architect," he notes, "while traditional houses come in certain styles, and people can choose the one that reflects who they are."

What's interesting is that Gary is himself an architect—a partner in the prestigious firm of Robert A.M. Stern Architects, no less—and could have built a nice big neoclassical house from scratch, he does this for wealthy clients all the time. Instead, he shopped for a find in a dormant neighborhood filled with a candy-store assortment of traditions—Craftsman, Queen Anne, Tudor, Mediterranean, Cape Cod, Shingle, split-level, ranch—and chose to embroider rather than rebuild.

At the time, Gary was living in an apartment in Bronklyn. "But I design houses," he says. "I wanted to live in a house, among houses." Luckily, his longtime partner, Barbara Brust, a theater-costume designer, didn't object.

Prompted by a 1998 *New York Times* profile of the neighborhood, illustrated with photographs of houses for sale, Gary motored out to take a look. There, just 14 miles from midtown Manhattan, on aptly named Edgecliff Terrace, he found his mission: a circa-1910 three-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bath American Foursquare, overdue for a little spit and polish.

As a student of old-school "garden suburbs," Gary was equally intrigued by the neighborhood, Park Hill, a rocky tract that had been subdivided into

ABOVE. Multiple hues enhance the foyer while highlighting the millwork. *Paint: Farrow & Ball's Blue Gray (upper walls) and String (wainscot)*

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK TRY

VALSPAR
Belle Grove Buff

PITTSBURGH PAINTS
Balsam

PHOTOS (ALL PAINT DABS) BY ANN HERMES/THE INC. © 3 FAL STUDIO

ABOVE. Sky blue, cloud white, and grass green connect the breakfast nook to the outdoors. *Paint: Farrow & Ball's Farrow's Cream (upper walls), Skylight (ceiling), Cooking Apple Green (windows and doors), and House White (cabinets, left).* LEFT: New fronts gave the cabinets a lift.

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK TRY

BENJAMIN MOORE
Banana Cream

PITTSBURGH PAINTS
Morning Fog

CLARK + KENSINGTON
Feather Cactus

ABOVE A custom window and built-in with matching divided lights showcase antique furniture and transferware. *Paint: Farrow & Ball's Dorset Cream (upper walls) and Pale Powder (ceiling).*

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK, TRY

OLYMPIC
Dusty Yellow

BEHR
Lime Light

SHOP THIS STYLE
To find furnishings similar to those used in this house, blipp this page or go to **wayfair.com/thisoldhouse**

cliff-clinging lots starting in the 1880s and sold to up-and-coming Manhattanites. Rail service never quite made it up the hill, however, and over time the planned community became a refuge for bargain-hunting artists, musicians, and like-minded souls.

With its barrel-tiled hipped roof and wide, symmetrical porch, the house fit a textbook description of "Eclectic Houses, Subtype American Foursquare," making it obvious prey for a zealous collector with an antiques habit who had grown up in a similarly cozy Cape Cod. "My first reaction was to its curb appeal," says Gary, who promptly scooped the house up.

Then, with the help of general contractor Tomasz Fryc, he ladled on the charm.

Though it had held on to its original rooms and had a functioning furnace, the house had not aged well. The landscaping was ragged, and the 1970s kitchen and its breakfast nook were a little sad. But rather than open

ABOVE Homeowner Gary Brewer with his wirehaired fox terrier, Scout, gravitates to this spot, rain or shine. He designed the porch railings and furnished the space in complementary hues.

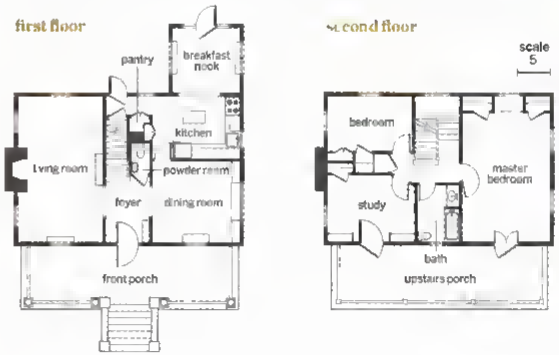
up the first floor a la mode, Gary kept structural changes to a minimum. Fryc and his crew rebuilt the breakfast nook's rear wall with lots of glass. In the dining room, they tore out a dropped ceiling and replaced the original "piano window"—one designed to sit higher than an upright—with a custom window that brings in more light while framing new landscaping and a dramatic boulder in the neighbor's yard.

The canvas was now clean and prepped for period-style woodwork and built-ins. "Gary may be an architect who works for a big firm," says Fryc, who knows him through their joint work on traditionally tricked-out mansions, "but he would greet me in the morning with a couple of ideas in his head and put them on a piece of paper." Fryc took the sketches back to the workshop in Queens he shares with his father, Zygmunt, a master craftsman who makes custom knives for millwork shaping. Along with a mantel and overmantel for the fireplace, they turned out built-ins, wainscoting, decorative ceiling beams, radiator covers, and ribbon upon ribbon of crown and picture molding. "With Gary, it's a never-ending story," Fryc says appreciatively. "Something's always 'missing.'"

Their biggest challenge was turning back time in the kitchen and breakfast nook. "The kitchen, yes, this was actually very interesting," Fryc says. "It was dark brown, all old oak, and I suggested we take everything out and build a new-old kitchen. Gary's like, 'No, no, this kitchen has a spirit and

floor plans

The breakfast nook gained a French door and sidelights, and the dining room a replacement window. Two upstairs bedrooms were joined, and built-ins added throughout. Even with a now finished attic, the house totals 1,800 square feet.



FLOOR PLANS: IAN WORPOLE

The circa-1910 American Foursquare is a 30-step walkup. New terracing, stone walls, and paths wrap the house, yielding outdoor rooms and making the interior feel larger.

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK TRY

COLORHOUSE
Water 02

ABOVE. Flea-market artwork hangs in the stairwell leading to the new master bedroom and hall bath. *Paint. Farrow & Ball's Blue Gray (hall upper walls) String (wainscot) Farrow's Cream (bath walls) and Skylight (bath ceiling)*

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK TRY

OLYMPIC
Going Gray

GLIDDEN
Soft Suede

RIGHT A farmer bedroom became the study finished with celers that evoke oak library tables and embossed leather *Paint. Farrow & Ball's Cat's Paw (walls) and Skylight (ceiling)*

I'd like to keep it." Two weeks elapsed while he pondered ways to achieve the architectural equivalent of comfort food. Eschewing cabinets that leap accommodatingly to the ceiling, he kept the existing boxes, commissioning new glass fronts and beadboard backs, and a pantry to catch the overflow.

Upstairs, Fryc and his crew merged two bedrooms and turned another into a study. The bath was refurbished with period-style finishes and the hall lined with more wainscoting. When they finally reached the attic, it became a sewing room for Barbara and a walk-in closet to hold what little clutter the couple allows in.

Figuring out the paint was no small thing, partly because Gary wanted his rooms to have separate but related identities, like siblings. Turning to his firm's go-to brand for colors, he experimented with some 30 shades, eventually whittling them down to a dozen. Leafy greens, sky blues, and sunny yellows borrowed from the outdoors shift between rooms with varying light, while a darker blue-gray climbs from the foyer to the attic, connecting all three levels. Walls are in a light-absorbing matte finish, and trim, much of it a single unifying white, is a slightly glossy eggshell.

Today, homeowners and enablers alike are taking a breather. And so far, so good. "With the outdoor spaces, the house is great for entertaining," Gary says. But most of all, "I like the comfortable feel of the rooms." ■

ABOVE Antiqued mirrors bookend the master bedroom's window seat, reflecting glimpses of the trees *Paint Farrow & Ball's Churlish Green (walls), Ball Green (windows and doors) Cooking Apple Green (door panels) and Skylight (ceiling)*

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK TRY

VALSPAR
Martinique Dawn

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS
Wheat Grass

CLARK + KENSINGTON
Spanish Olive

COLOR IDEAS

PAINTED PATINA

Give ho-hum wood furniture a colorful weathered finish with five simple distressing techniques. A pair of paint-makeover pros show you how

BY MICHELLE BRUNNER | PHOTOGRAPHS BY DANIEL HENNESSY | STYLING BY ROBIN TURK

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PROJECT 1 →

AGED MILK PAINT

This easy process mimics the dings and scrapes you'd see on a painted wood piece after decades of wear and tear. It's ideal for unvarnished wood furniture with interesting details, like the dresser at left.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Solid beeswax, a chip brush, yellow milk paint (here, it's Miss Mustard Seed's Milk Paint in Mustard Seed Yellow), a paint scraper, painter's tape, a round wax brush, clear finishing wax.

HOW TO DO IT: Run a piece of beeswax along the corners, edges, and prominent details that would naturally show signs of wear; this will keep paint from adhering to those spots. Mix powdered milk paint with water according to the directions, and let sit for 10 minutes until the pigment dissolves. Brush on. When the paint is 90 percent dry, run a scraper over wear spots and use painter's tape to carefully pull off some of the paint on flat surfaces. With a short, bristled round brush, apply finishing wax in a circular motion, about 1 square foot at a time, wiping away any excess with a rag as you go.

TIP: Mix up only as much milk paint as you need—it contains a natural protein that will sour after a few days.

Marjee Ann Kress (left) and Jill Wilson at their shop, Mak and Jill's The Abode

ONCE UPON A TIME, a perfectly distressed painted finish on a table or dresser took years to develop. Not anymore. Just ask Marjee Ann Kress and Jill Wilson, who blog about their adventures in furniture reinvention at makandjill.com. As the owners of a home store and design-services business in San Clemente, California, they have perfected the process of giving so-called brown furniture the kind of layered patina it would once have taken decades to acquire. "We're taking dated pieces that have been gathering dust in the garage and giving them new life," says Wilson. "We've always been drawn to older furniture," adds Kress. "It has a history, is built solid, and has great detail."

Childhood friends and early adopters—"Our first project was repainting my bedroom set when I was 14," says Wilson—the two have spent years perfecting their techniques. These days they rely on two matte paints for fast results with next to no sanding or priming—one that imparts a chalky look (Annie Sloan Chalk Paint) and old-fashioned milk paint (they like Miss Mustard Seed's)—for both their design work and the workshops they teach. Read on for their secrets to getting an aged look in no time.

BEFORE

PROJECT 2 →

COLOR WASH

This technique adds subtle color while allowing the natural beauty of the wood to show through. Try it on unfinished pieces with paneling details for the wash to accentuate, like the cabinet above.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED A large, round natural-bristle brush, Annie Sloan Chalk Paint in Greek Blue, a round wax brush, a rag, dark finishing wax.

HOW TO DO IT Brush on Chalk Paint, thinned 3 parts paint to 1 part water, pushing the solution into the wood grain. Wipe paint off flat areas with a rag; color will remain in the crevices. When dry, add a coat of dark wax for a rustic antiqued look. Wipe off any excess with a rag.

TIP: On brand-new wood, thin the paint less, say 4 or 5 parts to 1.

DO IT YOURSELF! For step-by-step instructions, get your tablet edit on at **thisoldhouse.com/tablet**

BEFORE

PROJECT 3 →

BOAT-WOOD EFFECT

Inspired by reclaimed wood furniture made from traditional Indonesian fishing boats that have been retired, this four-color finish features multiple layers of paint, so it has texture—a good fit for pieces that aren't in constant use, like an occasional table.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED A chip brush, Annie Sloan Chalk Paint in Emperor's Silk, Old White, Barcelona Orange, and English Yellow, a plastic putty knife or spatula, a paint scraper, sandpaper, a round wax brush, a rag, dark and clear finishing wax.

HOW TO DO IT: The key to this look is allowing the containers of Chalk Paint to sit open overnight. When left exposed to the air, the paint thickens to an almost impasto, like consistency.

STEP-BY-STEP

STEP 1
Use a chip brush to paint a base coat of red over the entire piece.

STEP 2
Apply a second coat of thickened paint (here, it's white) with a plastic spatula in a striped pattern. Repeat with two more colors (here, orange and yellow). Let dry for 1½ hours.

STEP 3
With the last coat about 90 percent dry, run a paint scraper and/or sandpaper over surfaces to randomly distress them. Wipe away any residual dust with a rag.

STEP 4
With a round brush, apply clear wax in a circular motion, about 1 square foot at a time, wiping away any excess with a rag as you go.

STEP 5
Use the wax brush to apply dark wax all over. The wax will settle into the worn spots, giving it an antiqued look. Wipe away any excess with a rag.

DO IT YOURSELF!
For step-by-step instructions get your tablet edition at **thisoldhouse.com/tablet**

PROJECT 4 →

CHIPPY LAYERED FINISH

Allowing other colors and some bare wood to show suggests an item that has passed through many hands. This three-color look suits worn wood pieces that have a less-than-perfect finish or even cracks, like this pew.
WHAT YOU'LL NEED: A chip brush; Miss Mustard Seed's Milk Paint in Ironstone, Mustard Seed Yellow, and Lucketts Green; a paint scraper; 150-grit sandpaper; a round wax brush; a rag; clear finishing wax
HOW TO DO IT: If needed, sand off any existing finish before applying the first coat. Using a chip brush, dry brush on a coat of white milk paint, dipping just the tip of the brush into the paint, leaving a minimal amount on the bristles. Let dry. Lightly sand where you want "aged" areas to appear. Brush on a coat of yellow milk paint; let dry. Sand again and apply green milk paint. When the piece is dry, use a scraper to remove random "chips" of paint. Brush on a coat of clear wax, wiping away any excess with a rag.

TIP: While wax is used to finish indoor milk-paint projects, it won't stand up to the heat of the sun. If you plan to park your piece outside, finish it with hemp oil. Apply only what the surface will absorb; cure for 30 days before placing outdoors.

PROJECT 5 →

REFINED CRACKLE

Sometimes you spy a finish on antique furniture that is reminiscent of the crazing on fine porcelain. This process mimics that look, lending a perfectly aged patina to pieces with elegant lines such as these French Provincial–style caned dining chairs.
WHAT YOU'LL NEED: A large, round, natural-bristle brush; Annie Sloan Chalk Paint in Florence and Old White; in Primer Red, Olive, and Graphite; mixed to make brown; a blow dryer; a rag; a round wax brush; clear finishing wax
HOW TO DO IT: No crackle medium necessary—just a trip to your vanity. The heat from a blow dryer helps create the same affect on regular Chalk Paint.

STEP-BY-STEP

STEP 1
Brush the blue base coat over the entire chair.

STEP 2
Mix a paler version of the first coat by adding in white till you get a shade you like. Let the can sit open overnight to thicken the paint, then apply.

STEP 3
While the second coat is still wet, hit it with the heat from a blow dryer. Do this wherever you want to see the paint crackle.

STEP 4
Once dry, brush on a wash that's equal parts paint and water; this brown was a mix of red, olive, and gray. Then wipe it right off—color will settle in the cracks.

STEP 5
Finish with a coat of clear wax to seal and protect the paint finish, wiping away any excess with a rag. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 107

COLOR IDEAS

rustic revival

LEFT The existing kitchen's pine cupboards, stainless-steel sink, and vintage Hoosier cabinet were salvaged from a Georgia farmhouse. The homeowner lightened up the space with open shelves and snappy paint hues inspired by a retro-style refrigerator. BELOW The front porch doubles as an outdoor dining room 10 months a year; its Adirondack-style stickwork is made from locust logs and mountain-laurel twigs. *Paint (furniture): Benjamin Moore's Bramblet Beige*

JEEP RED, COWBOY-BOOT YELLOW, AND A GREEN BORROWED FROM THE SURROUNDING PINE FOREST ARE JUST A FEW OF THE HUES THIS SERIAL RENOVATOR USED TO PUT HER PERSONAL, PAINTERLY STAMP ON A 1910 CABIN

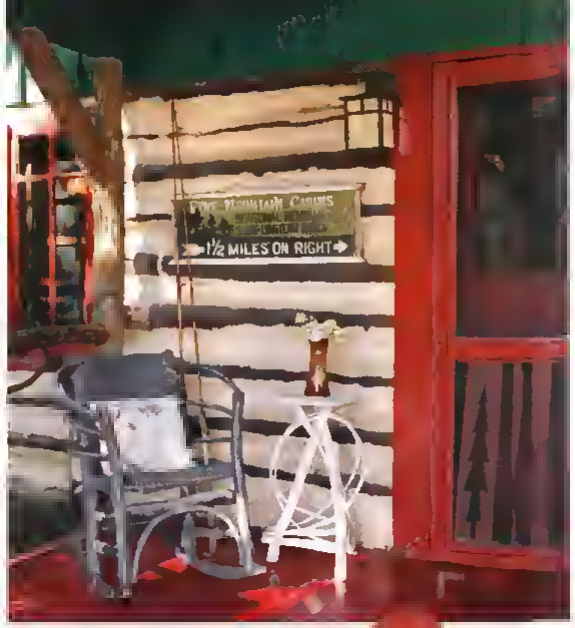
by Susan Heeger Photographs & Styling by Gridley + Graves

Imagine a novel

that kicks off with its heroine roaming the Georgia woods with her dog and stumbling upon an old cabin whose owners seem to have been suddenly, mysteriously called away. Through its tall windows, she sees furniture around a massive stone fireplace, books lining shelves, and beds heaped with blankets. The house itself, built of chinked cedar logs, wrapped by an Adirondack-style stickwork porch, and surrounded by pines and hemlocks, overlooks a trout stream and is invisible from the road. It feels like a secret, a discovery that belongs to her alone.

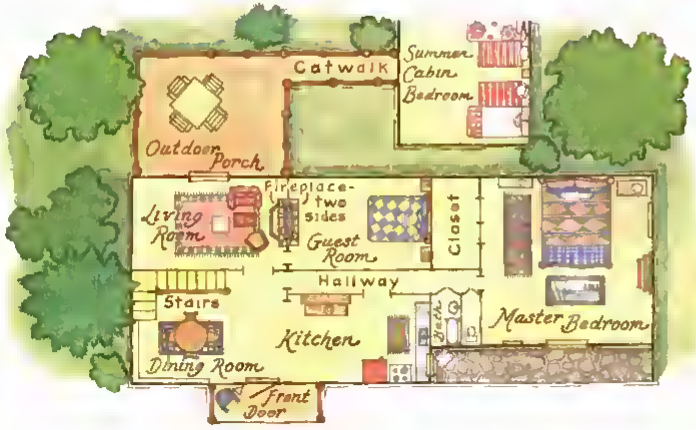
If you were to read on, you'd find that our heroine, partial to history, mystery, and old houses, tracks down the family who'd owned the home since 1925, then buys the place to restore it—and you'd be holding Annie Westermann's story in your hands.

Like any good yarn, the true tale had its ups and downs. On the upside, the 1910 cabin, known as Pine Poles and built in the Georgia mountain town of Lakemont, 90 miles northeast of Atlanta, sat high on those bark-covered timbers "like a cozy nest in the trees," says Annie. Inside, its floors and most ceilings were constructed of heart pine, its walls were rough-cut pine



The porch floor, window trim, and original front door wear a high-gloss red that cheers up the chinked log siding. The homeowner added the screen door's pine-tree cutouts. *Paint (floors, windows, and door): PPG Porter Paints' Red Gumball*

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK, TRY:
RALPH LAUREN
Dressage Red



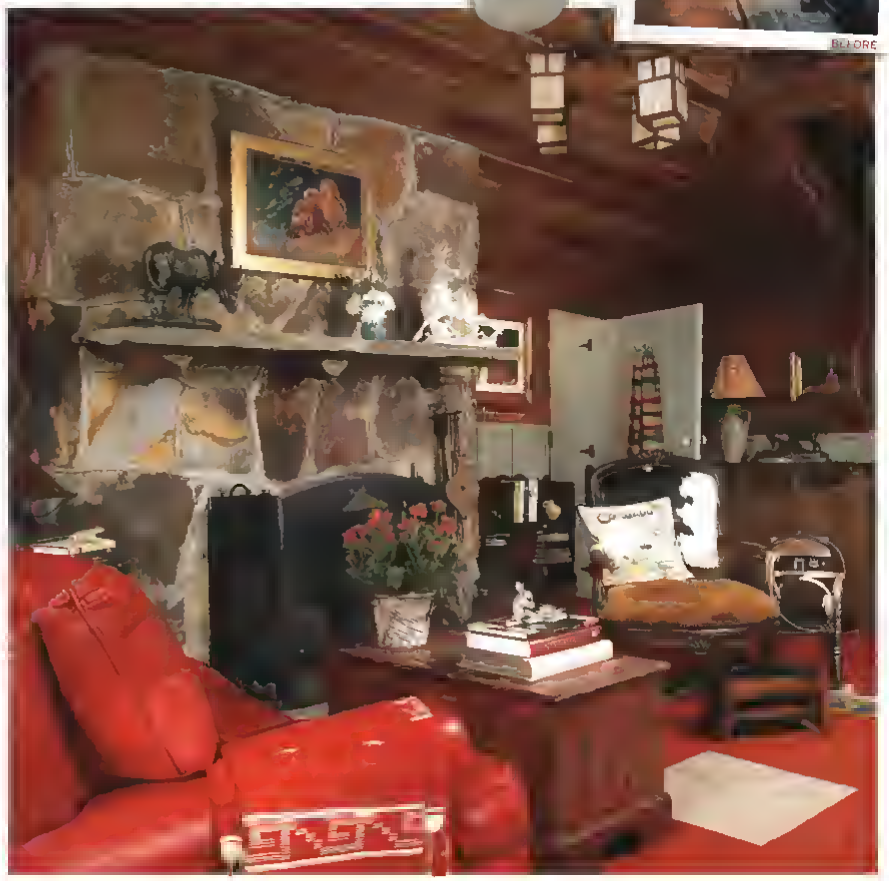
The previous owners linked two smaller buildings by a catwalk, creating about 2,000 square feet of living space. Under the "summer bedroom" is a bath accessed by stairs.

PHOTOS (ALL PAINT TASTE): BRIAN HONEYCUTT; INC. DATA STUDIO (ILLUSTRATION); JANE COTTER (INSET)

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK, TRY:
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS
Liveable Green

BEFORE

Eleven-foot heart-pine ceilings and a ribbon-work fireplace give the living room a cozy cabin feel, which Annie punched up with a custom red leather loveseat and patterned camp blankets. *Paint (wainscoting and door): PPG Porter Paints' Whispering Pine*



After realizing that the original pick for the kitchen walls would overpower the room, the homeowner repainted with a softer shade but left the door in the richer color for contrast. *Paint (door): PPG Porter Paints Be Daring*

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK TRY
OLYMPIC
Bumble Bee

planks, and its three fireplaces featured local quarry stone thickly grouted in an old-fashioned ribbon-work style she considers "a lost art." Actually two cabins linked by a catwalk, the home comprised a winterized three-bedroom, one-bath house and a one-bedroom, one-barh summer annex, for a total of 2,000 square feet on about an acre. On the minus side, the place had a tin roof that leaked "like a sub with the windows open," says Annie. Its wiring was shot, the catwalk was full of holes, bats were living in the eaves, and raccoons were nesting under the floors. Perhaps grimmest for the home's color-mad new owner, almost everything inside—floors, walls, and ceilings—was brown. "It felt like being trapped inside a giant brownie," she says.

But the self-taught garden designer and avid preservationist, having already restored two vintage houses in Florida and a dilapidated hotel in Lakemont, wasn't daunted by the challenge. She approaches houses the way she does gardens: "I look for the bones—the lines and features that create structure and character—and I work with those." And she had neither the funds nor the inclination for major changes. "I've never lived in a place where things were square and plumb and the floor didn't slant!" Annie says. "I love taking what someone else might tear down and bringing it back, putting it right."

At Pine Poles, despite the ravages of time, those bones—the logs and sturdy ceiling beams, the fireplaces—were intact. The thrifty former owners had preserved them as they made useful improvements, such as enclosing sleeping porches for bedrooms and converting an outhouse into a second bathroom. And they left behind shingles and shelves that Annie could use as she coaxed the cabins back to life.

The job began with a new galvanized-metal roof and a major cleanout of debris. Luckily for Annie, given her tight budget, her brother Douglas hurried from Illinois to lend a hand. "He's a retired policemen," she says, as well as an experienced DIYer. "You can count on him." Douglas rewired the house, evicted resident animals, installed new insulation panels in the master bedroom, and covered the ceiling with tin cut from the cabin's previous roof. In the kitchen, Annie ripped out the upper cabinets that made the room feel closed in and cluttered, replacing them with shelves from the previous owners' materials stash. A handyman repaired the catwalk between the cabins, but upgrading the aged heating and cooling systems had to wait till she could save up the necessary cash, which took about two years.

All this while she was working full-time running a garden center out of the former hotel she still owned nearby. So on nights and weekends, she started in on the most dramatic transformation, erasing the home's browns with a rainbow of paints. "I'm pretty adventurous when it comes to color," she says. "To me, when you walk in and see color, you know you're going to have fun."

From the outset, Annie had a certain Adirondack-

ABOVE: In the dining room—a sleeping porch the previous owners had enclosed—a green inspired by the surrounding woods covers all surfaces. Stenciled pine trees add a whimsical touch on the risers of the yellow staircase. *Paint (ceiling, floor, and walls): PPG Porter Paints Peacock Green*

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK TRY
RALPH LAUREN
British Racing Green

style palette in mind. Taking inspiration from the natural setting, her version of the classic color scheme includes forest greens, a red that glows like the living room's burnished heart pine, and the golds of local farm fields full of sunflowers and black-eyed Susans. But she had other inspirations, too. Driving a red Jeep at the time, she was particularly keen on its paint job, so keen, in fact, that she splurged on a matching fire-engine-red Elmira Stove Works refrigerator for the kitchen and a custom red-leather loveseat for the living room. Her favorite yellow cowboy boots sparked the vibrant gold that appears on the kitchen door, a paler shade colors the surrounding walls and those in the master bedroom, as well as the staircase. The living room's green wainscoting, which riffs off the tones of fireplace stone, is also on a bathroom wall, between ceiling beams, and opposite another wall of deep green that echoes the trees outside the house. That woodsy, deep green colors the dining room and also shows up on the kitchen floor. The shades work well together, she says, because they capture the cabin's sense of place and balance one another's moods—the warm amid the cool, the lighthearted with the contemplative.

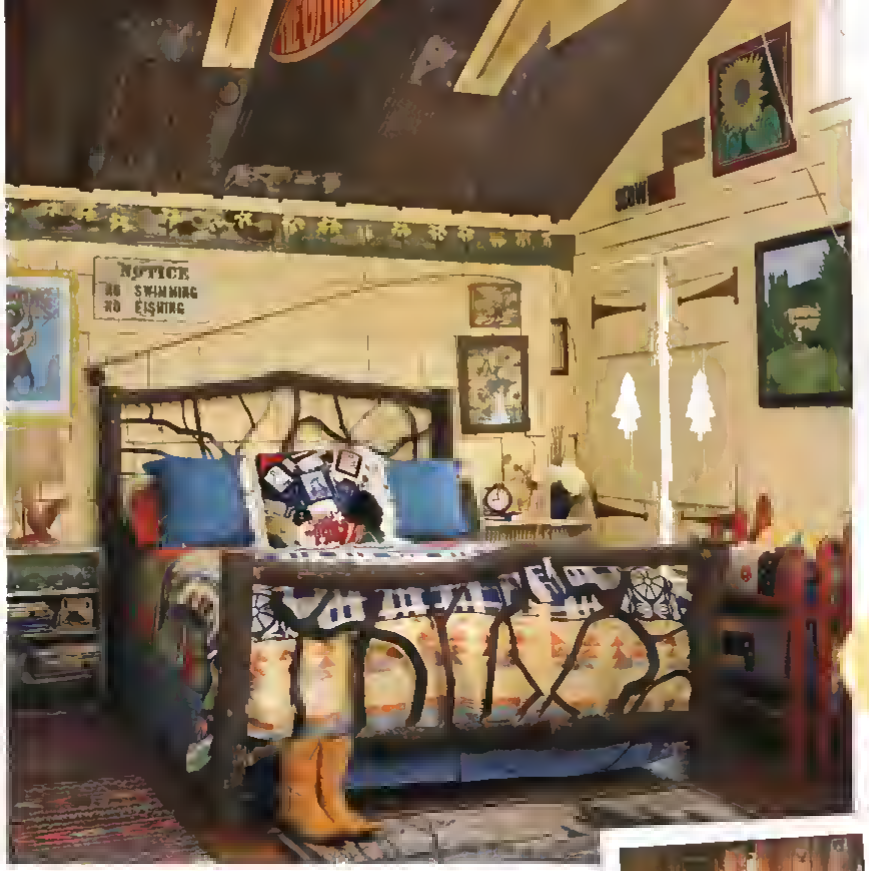
On walls and floors already covered with paint, she chose an oil-based formula, applying three coats of high-gloss to the floors, two coats of matte to the walls. On stained or unpainted floors and walls, she used a colored oil-based stain. "Oil-based paint eliminated prepping," Annie says, "and I'm lazy!" Not too lazy, though, to repaint the kitchen when she knew she'd made a mistake. Her first pick for the walls "turned out to be the yellow of a YIELD sign!" she recalls. "My dad was a housepainter. He'd say, 'Let the paint dry, see what it does, if you hate it, paint over it.'"

In certain spots, such as the heart-pine floor and ceiling in the living room, Annie skipped paint and applied matte polyurethane to bring out the natural luster of the wood. In the summer annex's bedroom, she simply whitewashed natural wood with a white pickling stain, bringing light to dark corners but letting the grain show. "Sometimes I have to force myself to use white," she says. Generally, she avoids it on ceilings, which she covers with the wall color, "to add personality and create a whole, encompassing environment."

Doing much of the work herself, it took Annie two years to transform Pine Poles into the house she wanted. But in a twist of fate that harks back to a fictional plot, she'd only been in the house another two years when a hurricane blew in and a 135-foot pine smashed her roof. Making a remembrance from her misfortune, she used the stump from the fallen tree as a pedestal for an old washtub that now serves as a bathroom sink.

With the repairs done, she began to just enjoy her house. "I felt like I was waking up at camp every day," she says. Among her friends, Pine Poles became the party house, the spot for raucous fireside gatherings with a pot of chili, a glass of wine, and wonderful stories.

Annie had a simple vision for Pine Poles, one of Lakemont's "forgotten ghosts." She preserved its past, added upgrades for today, and then colored it in to make it hers. Reflecting happily on her part in the continuing story of her "little treehouse," she says, "I've left my mark, as in a time capsule, for the next generation." ■



LEFT In the master bedroom, the ceiling is clad with tin from the cabin's original roof, and salvaged shingles are nailed to the wall. The board-and-batten shutters, with pine-tree cutouts, were custom made by a local carpenter. The bed, which echoes the porch stickwork, was a gift. *Paint (walls): PPG Porter Paints' Lazy Daisy*

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK TRY

OLYMPIC
Sunbeam

TOP RIGHT The annex's bedroom was lightened up with Olympic's Premium Wood Stain in Pickling White. BOTTOM This bath got a makeover with a galvanized steel shower stall and a washtub sink atop a tree stump.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 107

11 OF YOUR MOST CRAZY-MAKING PAINT-COLOR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

Are you frozen by fear in the paint-chip aisle? Panicked at picking the "right" neutral? Whipsawed by confusion about accent walls? Let's face it: The trickiest part of readying a roller is settling on the right color. The choices seem endless, the rules elusive. But don't throw in the drop cloth quite yet. We queried pros far and wide to home in on useful advice—read on for tricks everyone can use.

BY JILL CONNORS

1 I love the look of a colored ceiling but have no clue where to start. Any suggestions?

A | There's a reason white is traditional for ceilings. It doesn't show imperfections the way a dark color does. Picking another hue can be much more interesting, but it's important to remember this rule: If the ceiling is darker than the walls, it will look lower; if it's lighter, it will appear higher. A safe choice is a warm white or even a very pale blue. Or create a custom tint based on what is on the walls—a look that's particularly successful in rooms without crown molding. Architectural color consultant Bonnie Krims offers this formula: "Take the wall color and mix 25 or 50 percent white into it to lighten it up." One other approach: "Add some graphic interest," suggests interior designer Julie Richard, a color consultant for Ace who just enlivened a children's room's pale gray walls with yellow and white stripes overhead.

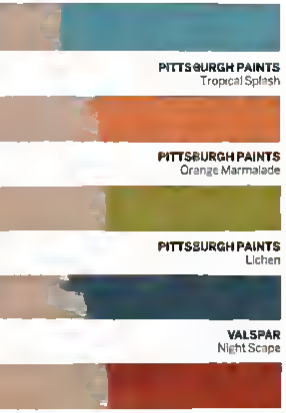
2 I'm not interested in bold colors; can you offer any guidance for picking neutrals?

A | Here's why neutrals are considered a good bet: They're extremely versatile. But that doesn't mean they're foolproof. "Beige can fall into warm and cool categories," explains Erika Woelfel, color marketing director for Behr. Various undertones can make them look gold, gray, green, or red. Knowing these nuances and considering what other colors are nearby is the secret to choosing the right shade. To determine which looks best in your home, view samples against your furnishings and the other finishes in a room—and in different lighting conditions. Below are a few pro-approved options to consider.

COOL BEIGES These tend toward khaki, with undertones of green or brown. They work in spaces with other cool hues—think slate floors and stainless steel.

WARM BEIGES Often called camel, these shades have golden or orange undertones. They coordinate nicely with honey-colored stone and wood finishes.

GLIDDEN Autumn Haze
BEHR Gobi Desert
GLIDDEN Tea & Honey
BEHR Clear De Lune



PITTSBURGH PAINTS Tropical Splash
PITTSBURGH PAINTS Orange Marmalade
PITTSBURGH PAINTS Lichen
VALSPAR Night Scape
VALSPAR Rare Sienna

3 I have a couple of dark, windowless rooms and one gloriously sunny one. How should I approach color in each of those spaces?

A | Keep it light and bright in a dark room, says Dee Schlotter, senior color marketing manager for PPG Pittsburgh Paints. "Lighter colors, especially warm whites or pale beiges with a touch of yellow in them, give a dark space warmth and energy." If the room is small, she suggests considering a "big" color to make it pop, such as aqua, orange, or bright green, like the top three at left.

In a sunny space, you can go light for a fresh, crisp look or dark for atmosphere, says Sue Kim, color strategist for Valspar. Darker, saturated shades, like the teal or terra-cotta at left, "can create a feeling of security and work well in large, bright spaces; the lighting creates varying moods in different corners."

4 Our wood floors are really worn and we're thinking about painting them. What are some good color choices?

A | Painting a floor is a great way to anchor a space and also uphold a historical tradition. In colonial times, wood floors were painted a solid color or in checkerboard patterns to dress them up. Prefer to stick with one color? "A dark blue, green, red, or even black can be a great floor neutral," says interior designer Tricia McDonagh. Whites and grays also create a fresh look but will make dirt and dust more noticeable, so try them in rooms that are less frequently used, such as a guest room. Expect to recoat high-traffic floors every couple of years. For advice on how to coordinate floor and wall colors, see Question 8.

5 How do I choose colors that are most historically accurate for my house?

A | "The surest bet is to hire a scientific color consultant who comes in and scrapes the surfaces to determine what originally existed," says Bonnie Krims. If you're not willing to go that far, you can make an educated guess. Different architectural eras are associated with particular hues: deeper colors for Victorian, earth tones for Arts and Crafts. Many paint companies also create historical color groupings. Sherwin-Williams uses its own archives to create colors that are historically accurate. Valspar has partnered with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to develop a line. Benjamin Moore's Williamsburg Collection is based on 250-year-old pigments. Krims relies on Massachusetts-based California Paints' Historic Colors of America, developed with preservationists at Historic New England.

PHOTOS: MARK SCOTT/ IDEAL HOME/IPC+ SYNDICATION (BRUSHSTROKES); JOHN PENNY/TIME INC. DIGITAL STUDIO (OPPOSITE PAGE); RAINFOREST ARCHIVES/TERRA MAGNOLIA/GETTY IMAGES; GEORGE PETERS/GETTY IMAGES

6 What's the protocol for accent walls?

A | Color is one of the best ways to create a focal point in a space, and that's what an accent wall is. "In a plain room, an accent wall can make the atmosphere more dynamic," says Sue Kim. An accent wall can also play up a natural focal point like a stairway or a fireplace. To simplify color choice, she suggests using a darker shade of the same color as the surrounding walls, or at least a related color, such as the blue-gray combination in the room at left. Not sure if a bright you like will work? "Try it on the headboard wall in a bedroom or sofa wall in the living room," says Tricia McDonagh. "That way the color is often behind you—you're experiencing it, but not staring at it all the time."

FOR A SIMILAR LOOK, TRY

VALSPAR Ind go Cloth
VALSPAR Tempered Gray

7 I'd like to try gray walls, but I'm worried they might look a little drab. Tips?

A | The important thing to know is that gray can be warm, cool—or glacial—says Tricia McDonagh. Warm grays have a lot of green in them; cool grays have blue in them; glacial grays have a lot of black and white in them. "For the most part, you want to have some color saturation in your gray to keep it from feeling sterile," she adds. "So the safest strategy is to choose grays that have a little green in them or grays that contain some blue." Below, what to consider when picking the right one for your space.

WARM GRAY Green undertones help these grays jibe with other golden shades in a room.

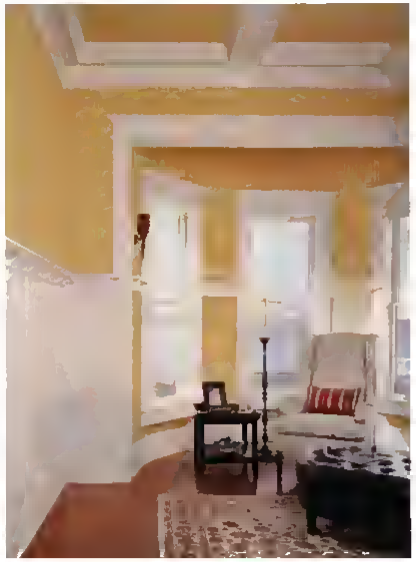
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS Comfort Gray

COOL GRAY If a room has silver, blue, or other cool-hued accents, try a blue-based gray.

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS Uncertain Gray

8 How do you coordinate wall colors with floors and countertops?

A | Of course, when considering a shade for the walls, the floor or countertops in a room can and should influence your decision. If there is granite in a kitchen, for instance, look for the tiny flecks of different colors that are often present in the stone—brown, green, gold, black—and use one of those to guide your wall color choice. Erika Woelfel is a fan of using contrast effectively. "If floors are a lighter, warm wood tone, I generally like to see a darker value of color on the walls. When floors are a darker color, I like to add contrast with lighter wall colors."



9 Are there any guidelines for trim?

A | Classic white trim adds contrast to make moldings stand out. One rule of thumb: the deeper the wall color, the darker the trim. With clean wall colors, choose a clean white with richer wall colors, go creamier. If trim is undistinguished, painting it the same color as the wall will make it disappear. Julie Richard likes doing something different in just one room, like a library. "Paint the trim and bookshelves a deep color, and the walls a lighter version for impact." Have wood trim? Gold or aqua walls can look great with dark wood trim, especially if it has an orange hue. Creamy whites or pale grays can flatter lighter woods, like oak.

PALER WALLS If you have a light, clean wall color, opt for pure white for trim.

CLARK+KENSINGTON Silent White

CLARK+KENSINGTON Luminaire

DARKER WALLS If your walls are a dark, rich color, creamy white trim generally works best.

CLARK+KENSINGTON Ivory

CLARK+KENSINGTON Celebrate the Moment

PHOTOS: (PAINT CANS) BRIAN HENRY/© ME, INC. DIGITAL STUDIO (2); (BRUSHSTROKES) JOHN PENNY/© ME, INC. DIGITAL STUDIO (4); YEL DIN RIK M. STE. JHEN MARK SC (OPPOSITE PAGE, PAINT SWATCHES) ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES; (PAINT CANS) TED MORRISON

10 What's a good approach to picking colors for above and below a chair rail?

A | Whether in a dining room, a hallway, or a bedroom, a chair rail (or wainscoting) adds visual interest. "No colors are off limits," says Erika Woelfel, but the simplest, no-fail approach is to select lighter and darker tones from the same paint chip strip for above and below the rail. "In deciding which goes on top, the goal is to create contrast between walls and furniture so they don't blend together," she says. A lighter wall color is better below the chair rail if the furniture is dark. If the furniture is lighter in value, the wall color below the chair rail can be darker.

11 Do all the paint colors in a house have to come from one family?

A | One reason choosing wall colors may cause homeowners so much angst is how random it seems when you're selecting them one paint project at a time. Solution: Create a whole-house palette that becomes the master plan. Bonnie Krims suggests selecting at least three hues that are common to all rooms, at least on the first floor, where adjoining spaces are often visible from one to the next. Say you choose a yellow, a green, and a blue. Paint one room yellow, but make sure it has an accessory in blue and green. In the next room, paint the walls a lighter tint of one of the three colors and again make sure all three colors are present somewhere in the room. That's how you create continuity between spaces. It connects the dots for the mind, so things don't feel disconnected." Colors can be from the same family or contiguous families; the palette can include two neutrals and one bold color. The only crucial rule? All the hues should harmonize.

SAMPLE COLOR SCHEMES Bonnie Krims came up with these first-floor palettes using California Paints' Historic Colors of America. "The palette at left could work in virtually any house," she offers. "The second one is best for an older home with small rooms—it's a lot of color." For both, lighter versions of the same hues could work upstairs.

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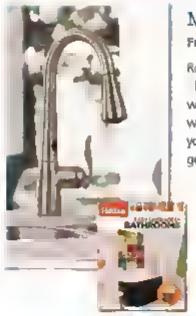

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INSIDE
IFFY DECK RAILING/DYING MAPLE/CRACKED CONCRETE/SOGGY LAWN/MORE

31 tips, tricks, and answers to your home improvement questions

Q Is there a way to recycle leftover paint? I don't want my half-filled cans to end up in a landfill.
—DAWN HUNT LANSING, ILL.

A If it's latex paint, you'll be glad to know that in Illinois, where you live, paint retailers and Ace Hardware stores will take it for a small fee and send it to a company that filters and reblends the old paint, then sells it at a deep discount. Go to earthpaintscos.com for a list of locations in your state, as well as Wisconsin and Indiana, that will accept leftover latex To find similar programs in other areas, visit earth911.com. —THE EDITORS

PHOTOGRAPH BY TED MORRISON

Our cast of veteran experts

TOM SILVA
General Contractor

NORM ABRAM
Master Carpenter

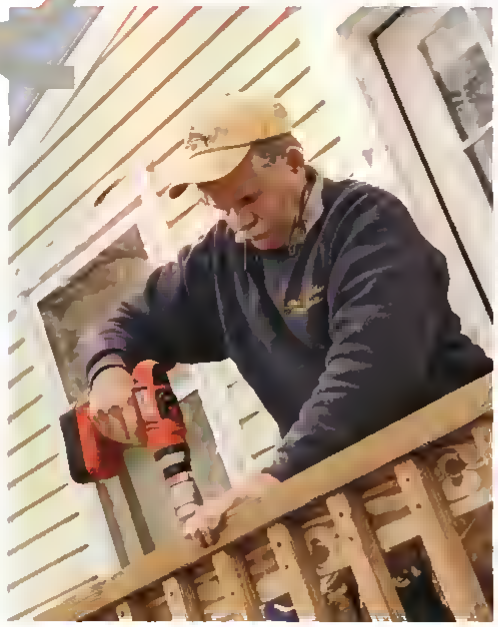
RICHARD TRETHEWEY
Plumbing and Heating Expert

ROGER COOK
Landscape Contractor

KEVIN O'CONNOR
Host

Our toddler keeps climbing up the lattice that the previous owner put over the widely spaced balusters on our second-story deck. I need a new, safer railing!

—DWAYNE MONACO VALHALLA, N Y



TOM SILVA REPLIES Oh boy, that railing has to be replaced before somebody falls off your deck.

Unless you have the money for tempered glass panels, which run about $80 per foot, go with vertical balusters because they're more difficult for kids to climb than lattice or horizontal steel cables. But they're only safer if they're properly spaced. Building codes specify that the gap between balusters can't be more than 4 inches, to prevent a child from sticking her head through the railing. As for the material, balusters made of pressure-treated wood, like the ones in the railing I'm installing here, are generally the least expensive option.

Another important part of the building code governs the dimensions of the railing assembly itself. People tend to lean on railings, so a failure there could be seriously harmful. Assuming that the posts are sturdy, and no more than 6 feet apart, the top of the railing must be at least 36 inches above the deck, and the bottom rail can't be more than 4 inches above it.

For more information about deck safety, go to thisoldhouse.com/sep2014.

Tom Silva drives two screws into the wood rail cap every 12 to 16 inches to keep it from cupping.

PHOTOS (TOP, LEFT, DAVID TSAY; ANTHONY TIEULI BROTHERS HOUSE, NEW YORK) (OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP) LYN WENDELL WEINER

Leafless maple

We have a Japanese maple that used to be big and beautiful, but this year only a few leaves opened on some branches. This tree is the focal point of our front yard, and I'm at a loss. What should I do?

—JOY BOHN WATERBURY, CONN.

ROGER COOK REPLIES Japanese maples *(Acer palmatum)* have their share of diseases and other afflictions, but it sounds to me like your tree suffered, like the rest of us, from a very hard winter. It didn't help that there was hardly any rain in the late fall last year where you live, so the trees went into the cold season without their usual moisture reserves. Although we did get plenty of snow, the cold was so extreme that little of it melted. Then frigid winds made matters worse by sucking more water out of the water-starved trees, killing many of the leaf buds and small branches in the process.

The best thing you can do at this point for a winter-damaged tree is to give it water—lots of water. Repeatedly soak the soil under the entire canopy to encourage the growth of new roots and leaves. Add a low-nitrogen fertilizer to the same under-canopy area in late September. Or, even better, spread compost or compost tea to encourage the beneficial mycorrhizzae, the symbiotic fungi that enable root systems to make full use of the nutrients in the soil. (To see how to make your own compost tea, go to thisoldhouse.com/sep2014.) Keep up the supplemental watering as necessary until the leaves drop.

As for the dead branches, it's fine to prune them at any time, but be careful! Just because a branch has no leaves doesn't mean it's dead. Always check before you cut. I gently scrape the small branches with my fingernail; if any green shows under the scrape, that branch is still alive and may leaf out this year.

With all your good care this fall, the maple should go into this coming winter in much better shape than it did last year. Hopefully, over the next few years you'll see a steady improvement to the point that it becomes, once again, the beautiful focal point of your front yard.

What is it?

A. Rose-thorn stripper
B. Carpet-fringe comb
C. Paintbrush cleaner
D. String-bean harvester

FOR THE ANSWER, SEE PAGE 106

Cracked concrete driveway

Last fall, a contractor poured us a beautiful new concrete driveway. But within a month, it was riddled with a network of hairline cracks, which became bigger as winter progressed. What's going on here, and what can be done to fix it?

—SANDRA ARESTA CHEVY CHASE, MD

KEVIN O'CONNOR REPLIES. I brought your problem, and your photos, to Michelle Wilson, director of education at the Portland Cement Association (PCA). Here's her diagnosis of what might be happening.

"Cracks like these are typical when a concrete slab shrinks rapidly after being *placed*, the preferred term in this industry. That wouldn't necessarily be the problem if movement joints are positioned along the edges of the driveway. These joints prevent the wet concrete from adhering to the sides of the walls so that the slab won't crack as it shrinks and cures. Shrinkage cracks also happen if the concrete mix contains too much water.

"Another cause of cracking could be the depth and placement of the control joints, the straight grooves that you see crossing your driveway. These grooves are meant to weaken the slab a bit so that when cracks do form, they're more likely to occur beneath the joint rather than wander willy-nilly over the slab's surface. On a typical 5-inch-thick driveway slab, control joints should be 10 to 12½ feet apart and at least 1¼ inches deep. Without knowing the thickness of your slab, I can't say whether these joints were done correctly or not.

"Freshly placed concrete is also sensitive to cold temperatures. If a slab freezes during its first 30 days, it could suffer a loss of strength, that's why late-fall pours in cold-weather climates tend to be risky.

"But even if the temperatures

A web of unsightly cracks in a new concrete driveway indicates that something went wrong during the prep or pouring phase or with the curing shortly thereafter.

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For step-by-step instructions, go to thisoldhouse.com/project

A dry well buried in a wet area of the lawn draws in subsurface water and acts as a cache for runoff. A drainpipe carries the excess water to an even lower spot.

cooperate and the control joints are the right depth and in the right place, if the subgrade isn't prepped properly—tamped and well drained, or with a crushed-stone layer to isolate it from expansive clay—the slab won't have adequate support and will crack as it settles."

Those are just a few of the many factors that can cause cracks, Wilson says. The good news is, you don't have to tear up the slab and start over. She thinks it is done cracking and should provide fine service as a driveway. But if you want to hide the cracks, she says, hire a pro to fill them and apply a thin, cement-based overlayment, or microtopping. SureBroom (surecretedesign.com) is one such product.

Trees as sponges?

One area of my lawn stays wet all spring, making it difficult to mow. Would it help if I planted a tree to soak up some of the excess water? And if so, what type of tree should I use?

—PETER ROCHELEAU, GRIMFIELD, MASS.

ROGER COOK REPLIES: A wet area like yours is usually the result of improper grading, which funnels rain and snowmelt to the low point. Sometimes it's due to a concentration of clay soil, which isn't as porous as loam or sand. A tree such as a willow or a red maple might be very happy in that soggy spot, but it's not going to solve your problem; trees create shade and grow lots of gnarly surface roots, and both are bad for growing and mowing grass.

The more effective way to dry up a lawn is to regrade it or install a dry well or a subsurface drain at the low spot. Both the well and the drain connect to a buried, sloped pipe that carries excess water to an even lower spot away from your lawn.

A full-bore regrading is expensive, requires heavy machinery, and will tear up wide swaths of your lawn. By comparison, installing a dry well or a subsurface drain, like those made by NDS (ndspro.com), won't disturb your landscaping, will cost much less, and is something you can do with a shovel.

Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

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Include a complete address and daytime phone number. Published questions will be edited for clarity and length and may be used in other media. We regret that because of the volume of mail received, we're unable to reply to unpublished questions.

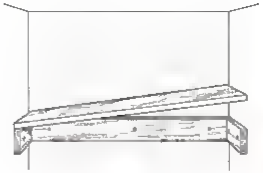
Norm's tricks of the trade

I want to install a fixed shelf in a closet, but the walls have no square corners. How do I even begin?

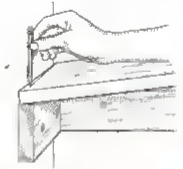
—DENIS FUCHS, POULSBO, WASH.

A Closet walls are seldom square, due to the buildup of joint compound in the corners. As a teenager working for my father, I installed plenty of 1×12 pine closet shelves and got pretty good at fitting them into irregular spaces. Here's how I did it, all those years ago.

1] Cut the shelf. Measure the distance between the walls, add ¼ inch, and cut the shelf to that length, square on both ends. Now set one end on the cleat and the other against the wall, with the back edge against the back wall.



2] Scribe-fit the ends. Hold a pencil against the back corner with its lead on the shelf end that's resting on the cleat. Pull it toward you along the wall, as shown, marking the shelf as you go. Cut along this scribe line with a jigsaw, then angle the shelf the opposite way and repeat the process at the other end for a nice, snug fit. ■



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COVER *For more information, see listing for "Well Balanced."*

HOME SOLUTIONS *(pp. 19–26)* Tackle allergy hot spots. *Thanks to* Mike Tringale, senior vice president, external affairs, safe.org. Side-step spills. *Thanks to* Rich O'Neil, Masterwork Painting, Bedford, MA; masterworkpainting.com. Avoid a color clash. *Thanks to* Don Cole, Master Certified Feng Shui Practitioner, fengshuidon.com; Liz Haynsworth, itsgoodtobehoma.net; Cassity Kmetzsch, remodelaholic.com; Moths that munch. *Thanks to* Louis Sorkin, entomologist, American Museum of Natural History, amnh.org.

BEFORE + AFTER KITCHEN Bringing it home *(pp. 29–32)* **Architectural designer:** Ingrid Nuñez, Lexington, MA; indesignscreate.com. **General contractor:** American Dreamwrights, Lincoln, MA; americandreamwrights.com. **Cabinet layout:** Right Angle Kitchens & Design, Woburn, MA; rightanglekitchens.com. **Painting contractor:** Maura's Painting, Somerville, MA; mauraspainting.com. **Electrical:** Caron Electric, Lexington, MA; caronelectric.com. **Floor tile:** Ergon Elegance Gray; emilamerica.com. **Subway tile:** Sede Gloss Tan; y's Marble and Tile Shop, Stoneham, MA; 781-438-5790. **Range and dishwasher:** kitchenaid.com. **Range hood:** broan.com. **Microwave:** kenmore.com. **Sink:** elkay.com. **Faucet:** moen.com. **Runner:** potterybarn.com. **Plates and mugs:** bennigtonpotters.com.

BEFORE + AFTER BATH Classic yet kid-friendly *(pp. 35–36)* **Designer:** Tracey Stephens Interior Design, Montclair, NJ; traceystephens.com. **General contractor:** Sean O'Boyle, SJO Corp., Secaucus, NJ; 201-210-2159. **Vanity:** Woodpro, creativekendb.com. **Paint:** 2168-20 Pumpkin Cream (walls); aho FM-19 White Dove (ceiling and trim); benjaminmoore.com. **Tub and sinks:** kohler.com. **Medicine cabinets:** rabern.com.

SHOPPING Colorful subway tile *(pp. 39–42)* **Sea and sky:** 3-by-6-inch field tile in Water; walkerzanger.com. **Dreamsicle:** Subway Tile in Tangerine Rain; missionstonetile.com. **Glowing emerald:** Subway Tile in Crackle Emerald Green; Heritage Tile; subwaytile.com. **Natural look:** Broadway 3-by-6 tile in Pistacchio Horus Art Ceramiche; tiletimeonline.com. **Firecracker:** Bright Red Pepper 3-by-6-inch ceramic wall tile; U.S. Ceramic Tile; homedepot.com. **Matte metallic:** Savvy field tile in Bronze; annsacks.com. **Bold yellow:** 3-by-6-inch field tile in Sol; solistone.com. **Dark denim:** Rittenhouse Square Tile in Galaxy; celtile.com. **Green sheen:** Modulus Tile Collection in Leaf Peeper; trikeenan.com. **Seaworthy:** Crackle Lagoon Blue tile; Heritage Tile; subwaytile.com. **Glossy greige:** Chocolate Ceramic Wall Tile; Allen + Roth; lowes.com. **True blue:** Bright Cobalt 3-by-6-inch ceramic wall tile; U.S. Ceramic Tile; homedepot.com. **Slightly edgy:** Savoy Field tile in Cornflower Blue; annsacks.com.

PHOTOSHOP REDO Paint adds personality *(pp. 49–50) Thanks to* James Martin, The Color People, Denver, CO; colorpeople.com.

WEEKEND REMODEL Install a linoleum tile floor *(pp. 55–58) Thanks to* Joel Hirshberg, Green Building Supply, Fairfield, IA; greenbuildingsupply.com. **Stylist:** Amy Hughes. **Sofa and cocktail table:** Salvage Style, Maplewood, NJ; salvagestyle.com.

WELL BALANCED *(pp. 72–79)* **General contractor:** Empire Restoration & Consulting, Ridgewood, NY; empirerestorationcorp.com. **Painting:** A Plus Painting, Yonkers, NY; 914-548-4300. **Windows and doors:** marvin.com. **Living room: Sofas:** potterybarn.com. **Fireplace tile:** waterworks.com. **Kitchen: Range, refrigerator, and dishwasher:** kenmore.com. **Subway tile:** celtile.com.

PAINTED PATINA *(pp. 80–85)* **Paint:** Chalk Paint by Annie Sloan; anniesloan.com. Miss Mustard Seed's Milk Paint, missmustardseed.com.

RUSTIC REVIVAL *(pp. 86–93)* **Landscape designer:** Annie's Landscape Design, Lakemont, GA; 706-982-9733.

11 OF YOUR MOST CRAZY-MAKING PAINT COLOR QUESTIONS ANSWERED! *(pp. 94–95) Thanks to* Bonnie Krims, architectural color consultant; bonniekrims.com. Tricia McDonagh, interior designer; patriciamcdonagh.com. Sue Kim, color strategist; valsparpaint.com. Jackie Jordan, director of color marketing, sherwin-williams.com. Dee Schlotter, North American senior color marketing manager; ppgpittsburghpaints.com. Erika Woelfel, color marketing director; behr.com. Julie Richard, color consultant; ecohardware.com.

ASK THIS OLD HOUSE *(pp. 101–105)* Recycle leftover paint. **Colors shown, from left:** 2021-30 Sunshine, 2034-20 Vine Green, 2028-30 Tequila Lime, 2013-20 Orange Nectar, and 2048-30 Aruba Blue; benjaminmoore.com. Cracked concrete driveway. *Thanks to* Michelle Wilson, director of education, Portland Cement Association; cement.org.

SAVE THIS OLD HOUSE *(p. 114) Thanks to* Terri Lynn Miller and Ryan Se'Herlein, Keller Williams, Saginaw, MI; kw.com.

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THE HISTORY William McCorkle, who built this Colonial Revival circa 1907, was no stranger to a hard day's labor. After growing up on his family's farm, in northern Michigan, he moved to Saginaw and got a job as a timekeeper at a local mill, back when the city was experiencing a boom in the lumber trade. A tireless worker, he was ultimately promoted to manager of the mill, its renowned interior moldings and fine piano cases were in such demand that they were shipped as far away as New York and Chicago. The mill was also the source of the many fine woodwork details that McCorkle and his wife, Anna, put into this home, where they raised four children and remained into the 1940s. It has traded hands only a few times since. The current owner has resided here since 1971 and is hoping the next occupant will restore it to the grand showplace it once was.

WHY SAVE IT? The exterior of the 2,764-square-foot house has a wide center dormer and classical porch columns typical of many Colonial Revival homes. The interior's lavish millwork includes a grand oak staircase, solid-mahogany dining-room built-ins, and wood mantels.

WHAT IT NEEDS The house has been well maintained, though its systems need updating. Interior woodwork details and plaster walls need some restoration as well. Like the house, Saginaw is also a work in progress—the city of about 50,000 is reinventing itself after the collapse of its manufacturing industry. With great bones and rich histories, both the house and its hometown are worth your rescue efforts. —PAUL HOPE

1 | The four-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath house sits on a large lot in the Cathedral district, a neighborhood lined with grand houses from the early 1900s. 2 | The dining room's mahogany built-ins retain their original leaded-glass doors and brass hardware. 3 | Storage cupboards are built into the walls of an upstairs bedroom. 4 | The carved columns on this oak mantel echo those on the front porch.

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